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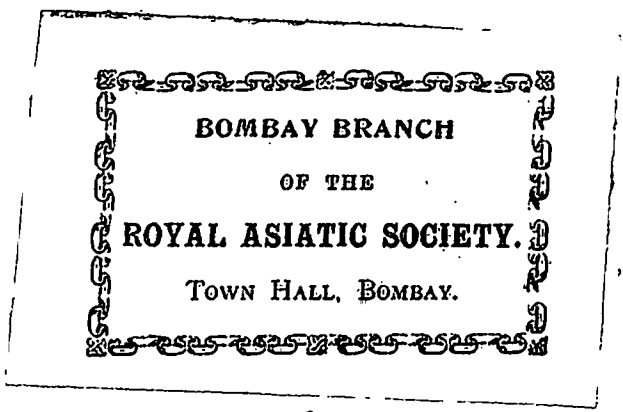

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J. Clark Sculp.

Arrival of a Carriage at a Post House

TRAVELS

IN

RUSSIA,

&c. &c.

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BY

WILLIAM RAE WILSON, Esq. F.S.A.

AUTHOR OF TRAVELS IN EGYPT, THE HOLY LAND, GREECE, ETC.;
AND OF TRAVELS IN NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND DENMARK.

ILLUSTRATED BY ENGRAVINGS.

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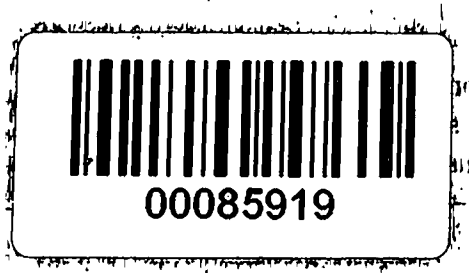

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CONTENTS

OF

THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from St. Petersburg. — Pavlovsky, seat of the Empress Dowager. — Palace of Tzarskoe Selo. — Post-house at Podberos. — Extraordinary scene. Novgorod. — Rakhino. — Peasantry, &c. — Volochok. — River Tvertza. — Torzhok. — Chonogros. — Palace of Petrovsky. — Arrival at Moscow. Page 1

CHAP. II.

The Kremlin. — Architecture. — Holy Gate. — Prospect. — Great bell. — Treasury. — Immense cannon. — Church of the Assumption. — Royal cemetery. — Churches. — Foundling hospital. — Galitzin's hospital. — Sheremetiev hospital. — Countess Orlov's palace. — Imperial stables. — Carriages. — Funeral ceremonies. — Streets, &c. — Superstitions. — Frauds of shopkeepers. — Cossacks. — Platov. Page 26

CHAP. III.

Ravages of the plague in the year 1770. — Insurrection and murder of the bishop. — Post-office. — New Petrovsky theatre. — Gardens. — Donskoi monastery. English church. — Burial ground. — Markets. — Punishment of the knout. — Anecdotes, &c. - Page 61

CHAP. IV.

Medical Men. — Libertinism. — Merchants. — Jews. — Smoking. — Anecdotes. — Restaurateurs. — Prisons. — Princes. — Number of the military. — Superstition. - - - - - - Page 84

CHAP. V.

Conflagration of Moscow. — Evidence relative to the perpetrators of that catastrophe. — Napoleon's flight. — Destruction of the English church. — Russia's views of aggrandizement. — Political reflections. Page 98

CHAP. VI.

Return to St. Petersburg. — Bible Society. — Character of the Emperor Alexander. — Death of his consort. — Insurrection of St. Petersburg. — Nicholas' coronation. — Anecdotes. — Difficulty in obtaining passports. — Final departure from St. Petersburg. Page 124

CHAP. VII.

Departure for Finland. — Pampoola. — German post-master. — Finnish peasantry. — Viborg. — Miscellaneous remarks. — Urpala. — Hogsfiors. — Rocky district. — Pyttis. — River Aberfors. — Fort Louisa. Ilby. — Gallows. - - - - Page 145

CHAP. VIII.

Paper-money. — Chaises. — Henricksdahl. — Helsingfors. — Fortress of Sveaborg. — Prisoners. — An extraordinary old maid. — Hints to travellers on changing Russian for Swedish money. — Scene at an inn. — Scenery. — Honesty of the post-masters. — Beautiful country. — Arrival at Abo. - - Page 164

CHAP. IX.

Abo. — Cathedral. — Tombs. — University. — Library. — Clergy. — Military hospital. — Prisons. — Mineral spring. — Magnificent inn. — Conflagration in 1827. — Popular antipathy to Russia. — Departure from Abo by sea. — Passage to Stockholm. - Page 180

CHAP. X.

Lord Bloomfield. — Departure from Stockholm. — Route to Gripsholm. — Castle of Gripsholm. — Portraits. — Nykoping. — Norkoping. — Carlscrona. — Lakes, docks, and harbour. — Naval models. — Road to Christianstad. — Christianstad. — Province of Sconia. — Disgusting filthiness of the peasantry. — Aby.

TO

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

GEORGE THE FOURTH,

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN,

&c. &c. &c.

SIRE,

WERE I to attempt fully to express my sense of the distinguished honour conferred upon me, by your gracious permission to dedicate the following pages to Your MAJESTY, I should be compelled to make use of language that might appear fulsome. I will, therefore, abstain from employing phrases that have been applied so often and so indiscriminately as to lose all meaning, and confine myself to observing, that, colossal as the power of Russia is, she offers little at present to excite the envy of Great Britain.

The Sovereign, also, of a free and generous people, may contemplate without jealousy the power of an Autocrat, however boundless. If, therefore, I have occasionally paid the homage of admiration to those great and enlightened monarchs who have wielded the sceptre over so many millions with a benevolent despotism, what has been uttered in their praise will, I trust, recommend me more than whole pages of compliment addressed to Your MAJESTY.—Justly, indeed, should I deserve Your MAJESTY'S contempt, could I for one moment conceive that aught of tribute to the memory of ALEXANDER THE FIRST could be unpleasing to the ear of GEORGE THE FOURTH.

I have the honour to remain,
With every sentiment of the most profound respect,
SIRE,
Your MAJESTY'S
Most devoted Subject and Servant,
WILLIAM RAE WILSON.

PREFACE.

NOTWITHSTANDING that the two capitals of Russia have been frequently described, I have been induced to lay before the public my own observations, trusting that these sketches of them will be found to contain many particulars that have been passed by without notice by other travellers. In fact, the improvements that have taken place at St. Petersburg during the reign of Alexander, and the renovation of Moscow, have tended to render preceding descriptions obsolete; while those who have more recently visited these places, have, by no means, described them so fully as to supersede any occasion for similar works. Neither do I myself pretend to have supplied their omissions; yet I may, perhaps, be allowed to say, that I have contributed a few gleanings to the common stock of our information relative to Russia, a country daily becoming more important and interesting

to the rest of Europe, whether it be with regard to amicable or hostile relations.

In the Appendix will be found several unedited letters of Mary Queen of Scots, and other distinguished characters, copied, with all possible accuracy, from the originals in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg; which will, I flatter myself, be found an acceptable and interesting addition to the work. I was likewise careful in collecting information relative to the Bible Society; and have, moreover, incorporated in the narrative many circumstances relative to events subsequent to my journey.

Whatever be the imperfections imputed to this work, I can conscientiously assert, that I have uniformly endeavoured to adhere to the truth, whether favourable or otherwise; and if, on certain occasions, I have spoken strongly on some parts of the system of government in Russia, and been obliged to censure, in no measured terms, the gross superstition which seems to prevail among the mass of the population; if I regard, at once, with wonder and regret, the solicitude taken to repress public opinion, — that surest monitor, and least treacherous counsellor of sovereigns; I am very far

from wishing to assert, that the people of Russia deserve all the reproaches with which English travellers have loaded them.

In the same breath we declare the Russians to be semi-barbarians, and furiously inveigh against them because we do not find them models of perfection; we are determined to note down only their faults, and then abuse them because we do not bring home a catalogue of virtues. Let us rather keep in view that the latter — and virtues they assuredly have, arise not from the excellence, but in spite of the defects of their institutions. Patriotism is unquestionably a noble sentiment; but I will not denominate that patriotism which displays itself only in depreciating others — that hateful spirit, which would pass its ban upon all beyond its own narrow pale.

In conclusion I would remark, that the more Russia advances in civilization and arts, and in proportion as her civil and political institutions shall be improved, so will the happiness and welfare of millions be increased. Much, indeed, must first be done; but I trust that there will be found sufficient energy and virtue to promote such a cause; and may he who is styled the Autocrat of all the Russias, deserve the appellation

of their Father, by wielding his sceptre with a lenient hand, by encouraging—not repressing, the progress of mental culture; by usefully directing—not opposing, public opinion; and by conceding—not withholding, that liberty, which, while it constitutes the noblest privilege of the subject, forms the best safe-guard of the sovereign.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME

CHAPTER I.

Passports. — Letters from British Minister. — Embarkation at Harwich. — Arrival at Cuxhaven. — Embarkation on the Elbe. — Hamburgh. — Government, senate, colleges. — Ecclesiastical government. — Military establishments. — English factory. — Borsen Halle. — Prisons. — Churches. — Convents. — Post-office. — Population. — Jews. — Wine cellars. — Regulations as to combustible articles. — Stadt-house. — Town-hall. — Exchange. — Chamber of Commerce. — Admiralty. — Infantry. — Arsenal. Foundling Hospital. — Gymnasium. — Coffee-houses. — Theatres. — Marriages, births, and funerals. — Markets. — Dress of maid servants. — Charitable institutions. — Students' dress, and those of higher classes. — Beggars. — Religion. — Sunday. — How observed. — Diversion of shooting at the bird. — A marriage described. — Horrid devastation committed by the French. — Altona. — Gardens. — Taxes. — Klopstock's grave. - - - Page 1

CHAP. II.

Leaving Hamburgh. — Price of posting. — Roads. — Boitzenberg. — Dress of peasants. — State of crops. — Lubthen. — Woods. — Prussia. — Lenzen. — Perleberg. — Storks. — Kletzke. — Chateaux. — Kuritz. — Fair. — Peasantry. — Fehrbellin. — Travelling machines. — Optical deception. — State of roads. — Henningsdorf. — River Havel. — Enormous stones. — Remarks. — Arrival at Berlin. - Page 41

CHAP. III.

Berlin. — Architecture. — Fashionable promenade. — Brandenburg gate. — Public buildings. — Statues of Dessau and Elector Frederick. — Palace. — The King's small palace. — Arsenal. — Royal guard-house. — Blucher's statue. — Opera-house. — King's private habits. — Anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. — New theatre. — Academy of Arts. — Exchange. — Museum. — Churches. — University. — Royal library. — Gallery for Egyptian antiquities. — Facility of admission to public institutions on the Continent. — Mint. — Prostitutes and beggars. — Benevolent institutions. — Vaccination, &c. — Population. — Taxes. — Police. — Prisons. — Punishments. — Income of the King and family. — Revenues of the state. — Post-office. — Orders of merit. — Hotels. — Wool-fair. — Royal foundery. — Manufactures. — Hatred against the French. — Letter from the King to the author on presenting a work. — Public walks. — Charlottenberg. — Tomb of the Queen. — King's second marriage. — Gardens. — Palace of Bellevue. — National monument. — Anecdotes. - Page 64

CHAP. IV.

Departure. — Roads. — Villages, &c. — Freienwalde — Royal château and gardens. — Zechder. — The Oder. — Prospects. — Königsberg. — Lake. — Husbandry. — Behn. — Pyritz. — Conflagration. — Lake. — Stargard. — Lake. — Nassau. — Naugard. — Plathe. — Riga river. — Château. — Peasantry. — Corfin. — River Perante. — Cöslin. — Statue of Frederick William. — Supreme Tribunal. — View of Baltic. — Schlawe. — Stolpe. — Launberg. — Gottingen. — Neustadt. — Cloister. — Katz. — Prospect of Dantzic. — Hotel. - - - - Page 114

CHAP. V.

Dantzic. — General remarks. — Cathedral. — "Last Judgment," by Van Eyck. — Public buildings, &c. — Criminals. — Jews. — Poles. — Fahrenheit. — Fortifications. — River and canal. — Imports and exports. - - - - - - - Page 128

CHAP. VI.

Regulations of government as to post-houses and horses. — Departure. — Description of country. — Marienburg. — Elbing. — Braunsberg. — Brandenburg. — River Havel. — Königsberg. — Description. — Departure. — Country described. — Tilsit. — Treaty of peace here. — Anecdote of Queen of Prussia. — Palace. — Church service. — Profanation of the sabbath. — Remarks. — Memel. — Departure. — Immorsett. — Russian frontiers. — Polangen. — Police. — Strict examination of luggage. — Difficulty as to passports. — Church and monuments described. - Page 142

CHAP. VII.

Mode of yoking horses, and of calculating distances. — Russian money. — Dress of peasantry. — Postilions. — Fine scenery. — River Windau. — Arrest of English travellers. — The Dwina. — Mittau. — Palace occupied by Louis XVIII. — Departure. — Riga. — Château. — Society of Schwartzhaupter. — Their collection of plate. — The reunion, or parliament-house. — Cathedral. — Cloister. — Churches. — College. — Military punishments. — Police. — Singular vessels. — Wolves. — Rare species of insect.

Page 166

CHAP. VIII.

Departure from Riga. — Posting regulations. — Appearance of country. — Lake Vidonusk. — Vallmar. — Agriculture and implements. — Stockelen — Valk. — Uddern. — Arrival at Dorpat. - - Page 193

CHAP. IX.

Dorpat. — University. — Library. — Anatomical theatre. — Observatory. — Female bricklayers. — Town. — Harbour. — Churches. — Departure. — Lake Peipus. Chudleigh. — Gulf of Finland. — Narva. — Superstition. — The Ivangorod. — Stupendous fortress. — Waterfalls. — Apolga. — Strelna. — Arrival at St. Petersburg. - - - - - Page 199

CHAP. X.

St. Petersburg. — Neva. — Marble church. — Statue of Peter the Great. — Manège. — Admiralty. — Naval models. — Remarks. — Curious mode of launching vessels. — Winter palace. — Hermitage. — Palace of St. Michael. — Marble palace. — Academy of fine arts. — Mine corps. — Museum. — Tauridan palace. Palace of the Grand Duke Michael. — Ceremony of blessing the waters of the Neva. - - Page 219

CHAP. XI.

Club-house. — Theatre. — Exchange. — Imperial library. — Manuscrips relative to English history. — Gostinoi Dvor, or Bazar. — Fortress. — Mint. — Royal cemetery. — Houses and shops. — Priests. — Nevsky Prospect. — Soldiers and military forces. — Intense cold. — Freezing of the Neva. — Barbarity of Droshka drivers. — Equipages. — Anecdotes. — Exking of Sweden. - - - - Page 254

CHAP. XII.

Neva. — Inundations. — That of the year 1824 described. — Greek religion. — Toleration. — Kazan church. — Catholic church. — Monument to Moreau. — English church. - - - - - Page 289

CHAP. XIII.

Passage in steam-boat to Cronstadt. — Description of that port. — Docks. — Anecdote. — English church.

House of Peter the Great. — Criminals. — Fortifications. — Number of vessels. — Improvements, &c. Page 316

CHAP. XIV.

Departure from Cronstadt, and environs of St. Petersburg. — Cotton manufactory. — Convent of St. Alexander Nevsky. — Cemetery. — Watchmen at villas. — Punishment of the knout. — Coins and money. — Orders of merit. — Police. — Booksellers. — Nobility. — Morals. — Emperor Alexander. — Fires for coachmen in particular streets of the city. — Public funeral. — Costumes. — Marriages. — Jews. — Clubs. — Public gardens. — Administration of justice. — Hotels. — Spies. - - - - - - Page 330

PLATES.

VOL. I.

Imperial Family - - - *to face the Title.*
Monument to Blucher - - - - *Page* 64
View of the Admiralty, St. Petersburg - 219

VOL. II.

Arrival of a Carriage at Post-house *to face the Title.*
Phenomenon seen at Moscow - - - 98
Execution at Munster - - - - 270

ERRATA.

VOL. I.

Page 312. line 14. *for* "Cousett," *read* "Consett."
line 6. from bottom, *for* "Demaresque," *read* "Dumaresque."
338. line 13. *for* "sins of this world," *read* "sins of the world."

VOL. II.

Page 21. line 4. *for* "Modena," *read* "Mednoe."
line 7. from bottom, *for* "Werst," *read* "Tver."
57. line 4. *for* "best new novel," *read* "last new novel."
77. line 11. *for* "here layeth," *read* "here lieth."
145. line 9. *for* "Drurushacio," *read* "Drarushacico."

TRAVELS IN RUSSIA,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Passports. — Letters from British Minister. —Embarkation at Harwich. — Arrival at Cuxhaven. — Embarkation on the Elbe. — Hamburgh. — Government, senate, colleges. — Ecclesiastical government. — Military establishments. — English factory. — Borsen Halle. — Prisons. — Churches. — Convents. — Post-office. — Population. — Jews. — Wine-cellars. — Regulations as to combustible articles. — Stadt-house. — Town-hall. — Exchange. — Chamber of Commerce. — Admiralty. — Infantry. — Arsenal. — Foundling Hospital. — Gymnasium. — Coffee-houses. — Theatres. — Marriages, births, and funerals. — Market. — Dress of maid-servants. — Charitable institutions. — Students' dress, and those of higher classes. — Beggars. — Religion. — Sunday. — How observed. — Diversion of shooting at the bird. — A marriage described. — Horrid devastation committed by the French. — Altona. — Gardens. — Taxes. — Klopstock's grave.

HAVING already submitted to the public an account of my Travels in Egypt, the Holy Land, Turkey, Greece, the Ionian Islands, Spain, &c. likewise of those I made through Norway, Swe-

den, and Denmark, it is now my intention to describe a tour through Russia during the summer of 1825.

I shall not point out the difficulties experienced in procuring passports from the superior Russian authorities in London, except mentioning that they appear to have arisen from an excessive jealousy entertained of natives of England proceeding to travel in that country, and who might be disposed to mark more particularly what should fall under their observation, as several works have been published that have excited the displeasure of the Russian government. On this point I will merely remark, that the subject might lead to explanations not altogether pleasant either to their feelings or my own, and shall, therefore, pass them over in silence. It may, however, be observed, that I found myself obliged to procure from a friend a letter addressed to the Russian consul, stating his knowledge of me, and referring to himself as a security, in case any thing improper should occur in the course of my travels through that country. On presenting this to the consul, he put it into a book, where I was requested to write my name, and add my age, &c., after which he delivered me two passports, one of them was in the Russian, the other in the French language; and these I was directed to sign.

Being provided with letters from the Right

Hon. George Canning and others, to the northern courts, we set off from London for Harwich, on the 27th of May, 1824, and took our passage in the Leicester packet, for Hamburgh, each paying *5l. 5s.*

On the following day we embarked, set sail at one o'clock, and after being tossed to and fro by contrary winds, and passing Heligoland (the *Sacra Insula* of the ancients), where a light-house holds out a star to every wandering bark, we landed on the 3d of June at Cuxhaven in the bailiwick of Ritzbüttell, the great station of the packets. The situation of this port makes it a place of importance as a depôt; and it is capable of being rendered the most complete maritime station in Europe, since, at a trifling expense, it might be formed to contain some hundred sail of first-rate men of war. There is a fortification with a small garrison; and one of the senators at Hamburgh, who is changed every sixth year, acts in the capacity of governor.

On leaving the packet here, a further demand was made by the mate and others, viz. for himself 12*s.*, the cook and sailors 10*s.*, and the steward *5s.*, thus making the expense of the voyage (340 miles) 6*l.* 12*s.* We then embarked in a large decked boat, and set sail, having in view a fortification, now nearly in a state of demolition, which was erected by Buonaparte, to command an entrance of the harbour. We now entered

the Elbe, or Elve, whose water is of a clayish colour, not unlike that of the Nile; and the views on each side bear a strong resemblance to those on the banks of the Thames. The Danish dominions are on the left, and those of Hanover to the right hand. A number of buoys, placed at certain distances all along, sufficiently point out the danger and intricacy of the navigation. We passed Gluckstadt, which is fortified, and where is suspended from the steeple a large iron anchor, displayed as the trophy of a victory which the Danes obtained over the Hamburghers in the seventeenth century; afterwards Stade, formerly one of the Hanse towns, and the residence of the English factory from 1586 to 1612, when it removed to Hamburgh. At one period this place became subject to Sweden; but the Danes afterwards seized and sold it to the Elector of Hanover, George I. Off this spot was stationed a Hanoverian gun-brig, from which the bark was boarded by part of her crew. They proceeded to the cabin, as if for the purpose of examining the baggage, but came up almost immediately, when the captain put a piece of money into their hands. As we proceeded, the river became more narrow, and when approaching the city of Hamburgh, a busy scene of ship-building exhibited itself; nor could any thing be more pleasing to the eye, under a brilliant sun, than the view of the houses, neat cottages, and gardens upon the

heights. These were extremely picturesque, being enveloped in trees and shrubbery; and from the velocity of the vessel's motion, appeared as if moving along, like a shifting panorama on canvas. In the afternoon we arrived in the free and independent city (calculated to be fourteen German, or seventy-two English miles from Cuxhaven), and proceeded to one of the principal inns. The total expense of the voyage from London was 7*l.* each.

Whenever a stranger arrives at an hotel or private lodging, a book is instantly presented, for the insertion of his name, and profession or rank in life. Intimation is then made to the police, and the arrival announced in the newspapers the following day. This is attended with one good effect, namely, that if the individual falls under the description of a *mauvais sujet*, or is indebted to any one, he is instantly discovered, particularly as such notices are copied by the provincial prints, and others of neighbouring states.

As a description of this important place cannot fail to be interesting, I shall here give as full an account of it as my own observations, and the information obtained on the spot, will enable me to lay before the reader. The city is situated in the duchy of Holstein and county of Stormar, in Lower Saxony, in a flat territory, and appears to have been founded at the end of the eighth century. In 811, an ecclesiastical govern-

ment was established; and twenty years after, for the purpose of propagating the Gospel more effectually, it was considered expedient to erect it into an archbishopric, at which period the "Dom" (cathedral) was first built, though the whole extent of the place was then no more than 200 yards in circumference. Hamburgh became subject to the Duke of Saxony, and afterwards to the Counts of Holstein; but trade having increased, the citizens were enabled to purchase some districts adjoining the city, and in 1225 they obtained of Albert Orlamond the right of jurisdiction within their own territories. This right was confirmed by the Emperor Barbarossa, and the independence of the place seemed to be secured. Not long after, however, the sovereigns of Denmark laid claim to it, and at different periods put it under contribution.

The north of Europe being infested with banditti, about 1241, the inhabitants of both this city and Lubeck entered into an offensive and defensive alliance, in which their commercial interests were not lost sight of. This example was followed by other towns, and a confederacy was speedily formed of upwards of eighty cities, which was denominated the Hanseatic League, and the cities themselves received the appellation of the Hanse Towns. These were divided into four classes, at the head of which were Lubeck, Cologne, Brunswick, and Dantzic; and

they had factories established in foreign countries. This convention having, in fact, engrossed nearly the whole commerce of Europe, acquired so great a political influence as to alarm the different potentates, by whom its dissolution was resolved upon. To effect this object, the different governments obliged such cities as were under their respective jurisdictions to withdraw from the league, and now the only towns which retain and exercise its privileges are Hamburgh, Lubeck, Bremen, Rostock, and Dantzic.

On this event Hamburgh became again subject to the attack of the Danes. To put an end, however, to this, in 1618 the citizens found sufficient interest to procure the place to be formally declared a free imperial city, under which title it was summoned to a diet in 1641, when cognisance was taken of the claims of Denmark, which were ultimately renounced by Frederick V. It is from this period we have to date the importance which, to the present hour, attaches to Hamburgh. Assuming a character of independence, it necessarily drew to it most of the trade of the Hanse Towns; and we may now set it down on the map as the first city in Germany, and class it as the fourth in Europe in point of commercial consequence; a rank that its local situation cannot fail to ensure it even to remote ages. Such may be considered as a faint outline of its history.

With respect to the government, it is founded on democratical or popular principles, there being no sovereignty, precedency, or title of distinction beyond that of citizen. It consists of a senate, and three colleges of burghers: the former is composed of four burgomasters, four syndics, and twenty-four senators. The two first classes are styled "Magnificents;" the latter, who are civilians, "Hochweisheit;" and the merchants, "Wöhlweisheit." The eligibility of a senator consists in his being a native of the city, and having a thorough knowledge of the rights of the state, in being upwards of thirty years of age, of the Lutheran persuasion, and not dependent on any foreign prince. A judicious regulation has just been introduced, that, in future elections, more attention is to be paid to the ability of persons to discharge the duties incumbent on them, than to their opulence; and it should also be observed, that with the same view the salaries of senators have been increased.

It is the prerogative of the senate to nominate consuls to foreign courts, receive foreign ministers, to grant letters patent, and make contracts; and it has further the power of mitigating or of changing the punishment of criminals. With respect to the colleges of burghers, the administration of each parish is under three *Oberalten*, nine deacons, twenty-four sub-deacons, and six ad-

juncts: of these the three colleges are formed. That of the Oberalten consists of fifteen members; namely, three from each parish. The sechzigers consist of sixty members, viz. the college of oberalten, and the nine deacons from each parish.

The third, named the college of a Hundred and Eighty, is composed of the former, and the twenty-four sub-deacons from each parish.

The college of the Oberalten, from its antiquity and high respectability, appears to have the greatest weight in the state, has the privilege of debating on any question, and of impeaching senators who are found to infringe the constitution.

The sechzigers are appointed to superintend the inferior departments of the state.

In addition to these, it may be observed, that there is another college, called the Kammerey, composed of ten members, viz. two from each parish: its province is to audit the public accounts. There is also a college of "Sales and Services," composed of four senators, five oberalten, two kammerey burghers, and two citizens from each parish.

Of the burghers, there are two classes: one called Grosse or large, the other Kleine or little. This distinction consists in certain privileges exercised in trade: for instance, the former are laid under no restriction, while the latter can

neither import nor export goods by wholesale, in their own names, nor transact business on the public exchange. Foreigners, who are disposed to carry on any mercantile or mechanical profession, to keep a shop, to belong to any corporate body, or to marry the daughter or widow of a citizen, are bound to enter as burghers: when summoned to the senate, they are required to declare their name, native country, religion, and produce a certificate from the drill-master of the town, that for three weeks they have, under his inspection, been trained to the use of arms. The fees payable for a great burgher is one hundred and fifty marks in specie, and for a small one forty marks, besides about five marks to subordinate officers. To these may be added another rank of citizenship, which is called the Foreign Contract. Its members enjoy every commercial privilege in common with the higher burghers, and are exempted from all public offices in the state. On his admission, the individual must declare the amount of his capital, on which a per-centage is paid, and a similar sum yearly.

The ecclesiastical government of the state may be thus explained. The senate is declared to be supreme head of the church, of which the established religion is Lutheranism, and the clergymen are elective. On leaving college, students, who are intended for the ministry, undergo an examination before the five principal

clergymen of the city, which entitles them to the name of candidates for churches. There are three pastors to each church: service begins on Sunday morning at eight, and continues till eleven o'clock,—commences again at twelve, and finishes at two o'clock; and there is a third service from two to four. There is no established form of prayer, and sermons are delivered *extempore*. The clergy are in the habit of confessing their flock more than once a year in their houses, on which occasion a pecuniary gratification is presented to the pastors. In this city are English, French, and Catholic chapels; but although the Jews form a considerable part of the population, we did not learn that they had any synagogue, although there is one at Altona, in the neighbourhood. A society is established here for the circulation of religious tracts, to which liberal donations have been made by the Society in London; and during last year, 93,767 tracts were distributed. *

In reference to the military establishment, it may be remarked, that the present governor of the city was at one time in the Russian service, which may explain the reason for the soldiers being dressed after the Russian mode. There are

* It may be mentioned, that in London the British Society, in 1826, distributed 90,000 Bibles, and in the course of twenty years, from 1802, there had been circulated one million copies of the Scriptures.

a fixed military and national or citizen's guard: the former consists of six companies of infantry, of 800 men each, whose pay is 9*s*. 6*d*. a month, besides lodging, provisions, and clothing; likewise a company of artillery of 80, and a squadron of cavalry of 100 men. The pay of the latter is 16*s*. a month, with other privileges. The national guard consists of seven battalions of infantry, of about 6000 men, one of chasseurs of 400, one of artillery of 400, and one squadron of cavalry of 100. This class is totally independent of the military. There are 16,000 burgesses who are also liable to be called on, and exercised, at twenty-four hours' notice, unless they prefer to pay for a substitute. The burgesses are bound to mount guard alternately four times during the year. The military constitute the whole force of the state, there being no navy, which is rather remarkable.

In speaking of the English factory, it may be observed, that in 1266 Henry III. granted certain privileges of trade in England to the city, and permission was given to purchase property upon the banks of the Thames, named the Steel Yard. On the other hand, some English adventurers applied to the senate for the privilege of trade in Hamburgh, free of import dues, which was granted, and confirmed by charter in 1611. This being a class distinct from the commonwealth, they could hold no place or office of

trust, and, therefore, each member was exempted from the assessments and personal services in the state, as were likewise their clerks.

Having mentioned, in general terms, some of the leading bodies, it may now be proper to notice briefly the principal public buildings. The first entitled to observation is the Borsen Halle, a spacious and elegant building, founded in 1803, which is the great resort of merchants, and is asserted to be superior to any mercantile establishment in Europe. Other parts of it are divided into eleven public rooms: among these are a library, reading-room, concert and ball room; the last of which is 64 feet by 42, and 30 in height.

There are several prisons, such as the bride-well, dungeon, winserbaum, work-house, &c. The first of these is for vagabonds; the second for drunken, riotous, and disorderly persons; the third for a class of persons who defraud their creditors; and the last for those convicted of misdeameanors, who are kept at hard labour. A singular mode of punishing the idle is adopted here: they are put into a basket which is attached by a rope to the ceiling, and are hoisted over the table during the time the others dine; nor are they allowed to eat till supper time. Hamburgh has five parish churches, and of these St. Peter's may be ranked as the most ancient. Its steeple, which is 416 feet in height,

has seven bells about 12,600 pounds in weight. The others are, St. Nicolas's, St. Catherine's, St. James's, and Great St. Michael's. The steeple of the latter is a most prominent object, and is seen from a great distance. From the top of it is a most beautiful view of the environs. The Dom, or cathedral, which is of Gothic architecture, is peculiarly striking from its antiquity. The steeple is out of the perpendicular, and to the eye appears to be about to fall. This church is, perhaps, one of the most ancient in Europe, having been founded in the ninth century, and contains many interesting relics which it is unnecessary to describe. The chapter is composed of a provost, deacon, and eleven canons. It appears that our late sovereign, George the Third, as Elector of Hanover, renounced, in 1802, all right and title to this venerable edifice, in lieu of which he received in perpetuity the sovereignty of Osnaburg, which had previously been held alternately and jointly by Hanover and Brunswick.

We found several convents or ecclesiastical foundations which had existed about 600 years. Among these are that of St. John, the Hospital of the Holy Ghost, and St. George, which are in possession of the best property in the territory of the city, and have their own jurisdiction and forms. Their abolishment, however, is

in contemplation by the senate, an act from which advantages are expected to be derived.

The post-office is particularly classed; for instance, there are departments for Hanover, Sweden, Denmark, Mecklenburgh, Holland, Prussia, &c. separate and distinct from the general posts. Each has its letter-carriers, who are distinguished by the uniform of their countries: those of the first wear red coats with blue collars and cuffs, and the letters G. R. on the right breast; the Danish have dark red coats with collars, and cuffs of yellow; the Prussian, blue, with orange collars and cuffs; the Mecklenburgh the same; and the Dutch red, with blue collar and cuffs.

This city is five miles in circumference, and divided into two parts, the old and new town. The population may be calculated at upwards of 120,000, and the number of females exceeds those of men. The Jews, who are very numerous, amounting to some thousands, chiefly reside in a part distinct from the other inhabitants, as in Rome and other places. The ramparts, which are upwards of one hundred feet in breadth, and surrounded by a deep ditch, encompassing the city, were demolishing at the period of our visit. The quantity of stagnated water in the ditches and canals cannot but tend much to affect the health of the inhabitants; and besides this, the

extremely narrow streets and lanes, with the numerous cellars under ground, where the poor take up a residence, and are frequently inundated from great rains and the swelling of the Elbe, are greatly calculated to create a train of diseases.

There are six public gates, and two floating bridges: on shutting the former at night, the keys are taken to the house of the junior burgomaster. The tide here rises twelve, and flows twenty feet above the city. In the course of this year 1946 vessels arrived, of which 812 were from England.

In the old town several of the streets are so narrow, that they hardly admit two carriages to pass each other, and there is a great want of pavement. Several of the streets have bridges across the river, and there are public fountains in various quarters of the city. In many of these, trees are planted on each side which give a cheerful rural appearance, afford a delightful shade to the houses in summer, and remind us of the Dutch towns, although this place never can, for one moment, be compared to any of them in point of cleanliness. There is always great bustle and activity in the streets: the carriages too are numerous; but there is a most reprehensible degree of carelessness on the part of the drivers, by whom pedestrians are

not warned of their approach, although the horses may even be at their very heels, and, therefore, it is requisite for the latter to keep a sharp look-out. Frequent accidents occur; but these are not allowed to be reported in a newspaper, as it is presumed to be inconsistent with that freedom so much vaunted by the natives. The vehicles mostly in use are what are called Stuhl-wagens, which are of considerable length, not unlike the body of a common waggon. The sides are made of basket-work, composed of twigs firmly platted, and the body supported by upright pieces of wood on each side: they admit of three or four cross seats, each containing four persons, and suspended on springs, or leathers, to prevent the body being jolted. These may be classed as private and public; and a family of a dozen persons may be seen in these carriages, with the master in front in the capacity of driver.

In this city no particular rule appears to be laid down for building, every one erecting his dwelling according to his own fancy. The houses are built in a pyramidal form, of from four to six stories, the roofs diminishing gradually from the second and third floor to the top, so as to form gables in front. Most of them have an iron plate against the wall, with the initials of the parish or section in which they are

situated; and all are so covered with windows, that it at least affords a proof that the glorious light of day is not taxed in this quarter of the world. Many of them have double casements, and between these flower-pots are placed in winter, thus forming a glass-house for their protection. Some of the buildings may be considered spacious, well constructed, and furnished with a degree of elegance. Rents are high, and subjected to a tax of two per cent. on every 100 marks. The fuel is of turf or wood; and the rooms are disfigured by the stoves, which form an ugly projection in one corner, of about eighteen inches in width, and nearly reaching to the ceiling: these are constructed of brick, covered with Dutch tiles, and plastered with a composition that retains the heat; it may, therefore, easily be conceived what an unsightly substitute this contrivance is for a chimney-piece, which generally forms so ornamental a feature in our English apartments, and admits of such variety of decoration. But this is not the only fault in the construction of houses here: they are ill accommodated with kitchens and conveniences for roasting. The usual method adopted, and a most clumsy one it is, is to put the meat into a deep dish, and make the fire around it. On Whitsunday it is a practice to decorate all the houses with branches of trees: the shops are shut; and more

regard is paid to this than to the seventh day of the week.

Under the most elegant mansions are to be found wine-cellars, while apartments for drinking, Bacchanalian carousing, and the sale of all kinds of spirits, are to be seen in every direction; and some of them are resorted to by the very lowest of the tippling tribe. It has been remarked somewhere, in reference to these petty traders in this Stygian comfort, that there is not a more miserable shift for a livelihood than their calling. Whoever would be successful in the exercise of it, must, indeed, be of a watchful and suspicious, as well as of a bold and resolute temper, that he may neither be imposed on by sharpers, nor bullied by the oaths of coachmen and soldiers. He ought to be a dabbler in jokes and loud laughter, and have all the winning "ways and means" to allure customers, and be well versed in sallies the mob make use of to banter prudence and frugality; be obsequious to the most despicable; be able to endure with patience and good humour the vilest language of drabs, and without a frown bear with all the squalid noise and impertinence that the utmost indigence and laziness can produce in the most shameless and abandoned vulgar. On the subject of tippling it may be added, that nothing is more destructive to the health or industry of the poor: it charms the

inactive, the desperate, and the crazy of either sex, and makes the starving look on his rags with stupid indolence. In a word, such a propensity falls under the description of a fiery lake that sets the very brain in flames, burns up the entrails, scorches every internal part, and is, at the same time, a Lethe of oblivion, in which the wretch drowns his cares. Moreover, this liquid poison makes him quarrelsome, renders him a perfect savage, and, alas! it has often been the cause of his shedding the blood of his fellow-creatures! Would that we could say that this degrading and immoral practice — one that entails such a train of distress and misery on the lower orders and their families — pernicious alike to both body and mind — were confined to the city of Hamburgh. It is absolutely idle for us to talk of the spread of intelligence among society, while so great a portion of the population abandon themselves to a habit that is not only highly pernicious and destructive in itself, but the propagator of wretchedness and crime.*

* According to a tabular view of the prevalence of intemperance in America, it appears that the ardent spirits drank in the United States cost 40,000,000 dollars yearly. Out of 1060 criminal prosecutions at New York, 800 were connected with drunkenness. Of 730 persons sent to the workhouse at Baltimore, 554 were the victims of drinking. Upwards of 31,000 die yearly in America from intemperance.

By a regulation enforced here to guard against fire, no citizen is allowed to keep in his warehouse beyond a certain quantity of pitch, tar, or other combustible articles, there being a general magazine for this purpose on the bank of the Elbe: besides this, persons are prohibited from firing guns or pistols even in their own gardens.

The senate, or stadt-house, which stands in the centre of the city, is an irregular building, it having been erected or repaired at different periods. It is 258 feet in length; and it is a remarkable fact, and one which reflects credit on this public body, that there exists only a solitary instance of a member having been in bankrupt circumstances: on that event he proceeded in state to the assembly, and resigned his dignity, feeling, under such a change of circumstance, that it was altogether inconsistent for him to remain in office.

The town-hall, which is spacious, is ornamented with paintings; and at the east end of it are representations of the twelve apostles, with Christ in the centre. Here are five chests, with the names of the five parishes of Hamburgh, to receive contributions for them.

In London, one death in eight is attributed to the same cause. It is ascertained that there are 100,000 drunkards in the United States, and these occasion wretchedness to nearly as many families.

Opposite to the senate-house is the exchange; a building paltry in the extreme for a city of such consequence, and, of course, it reflects no honour on it. The admiralty, to which belongs the jurisdiction of the Elbe, was founded in 1623. To qualify a person for being admitted a member, he must have a general knowledge of navigation and trade, and profess the Lutheran religion. In the infantry arsenal are 3000 stand of arms.

There is an establishment, denominated the Lombard, or pawn-house, where persons may, in a moment, raise money on property at one-half per cent, payable monthly; yet it may be questioned, whether such a practice, humane as it may at first appear, be not incompatible with real benevolence, since the temporary relief it affords is inconsiderable, compared with the misery it eventually produces, and those habits of imprudence it encourages.

The foundling hospital, established in 1700, is a spacious edifice, of a quadrangular form: the children are limited to 1000, and the yearly expense is 6000*l.*

The gymnasium, or public college, was founded in 1613. There are six professors, and a library of 100,000 volumes. Strangers are admitted to the latter on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The establishment of the bank took place in 1619: none but burghers can keep an account

with it, and the least sum that can be deposited is 100 marks.

It will be observed, that it does not issue paper money. There are numerous private bankers; and, as may be supposed, many of them are Israelites. Their practice, we observed, was to make calculations, not in pen and ink, but with chalk on the counters.

The coffee-houses are numerous, and almost enveloped in clouds of smoke, from the great attachment of the Hamburghers to smoking, particularly to segars. These are so common as to be sold on stalls in the streets for a very trifle.

Respecting the laws of police, it may be proper to remark, that, according to the constitution, the person of a burgher cannot be arrested unless on two grounds; namely, a criminal charge, or that he owes a bill of exchange.

Instances of capital punishment, and sentences of transportation for theft and larceny, do not frequently occur. In the case of the former, sentence is passed on Friday, and the execution follows on Monday; and, what is very singular, the culprit is not committed to prison, but is allowed to lodge in the house of the executioner, and furnished with what he chooses to call for. On his way to the place of execution, which is a short distance beyond the city, the criminal stops at the convent of the Blue Sisters, where the nuns come forth and give him a

glass of white wine, on which the *finisher* of the law breaks the glass, that no one else may drink from it. There is not any guillotine; but breaking on the wheel is still in force, although seldom practised. The instruments used are the Pein-Banck, and the Gespichte Hase. The first is a table, ten feet in length, in a sloping position, on which the criminal is laid naked, his legs strapped at the lower corners, and his arms tied behind him at the wrists, so that by drawing the table up and down by pulleys, the knees and shoulders are dislocated. The last example made was that of a schoolmaster, for assassinating his wife and five children. This wretch was taken to church after condemnation, and asked permission to preach, which he did accordingly, and made the greatest impression on the crowd that assembled; and it reminds us of nearly a similar circumstance that lately occurred at Gottenburgh, of a pirate who preached from the windows of his prison. — The second instrument is an iron roller, with long sharp nails, placed under the criminal's back, who is drawn to and fro, and the executioner stands with a pot of boiling brimstone and a bunch of feathers to sprinkle him! The culprit is then exposed to public view, chained to a post in certain parts of the city, with a label on his breast; but on this occasion no violence is permitted to his person from those assembled, as in the case of those

formerly exposed in the pillory in England. The executioner only adjusts the instruments, for one of his officers performs the last dreadful act, unless in the case where a criminal is sentenced to be beheaded, when he himself strikes the fatal blow with a sword — "a sharp medicine," to use the expression of Raleigh, but "a sure remedy for all evils." This person enjoys a singular perquisite in virtue of his office; having, for instance, a right to all the dead dogs, cats, and horses in this city; nor can any one infringe on this privilege.

Guard-houses are stationed in this place, at short distances from each other, so that in case of riots the parties can be immediately laid hold of.

There are two theatres, German and French. The first play-house erected was in 1677, which opened with the opera of "Adam and Eve," and there were also acted "Michael and David," with the "Birth of Jesus Christ." *

Notwithstanding the laws directed against brothels and disorderly characters, these do not appear to be, in the least degree, respected; for the eye is offended, at every other step, by the

* It may be remarked, that in the early ages of Christianity, theatrical representations had their origin from religious tenets. The subjects were scriptural, the clergy were the actors, the church was the stage, and Sunday the time of exhibition.

number of unfortunate women prowling about, and others may be seen at their windows using every artifice to entrap the unwary into those paths that lead to destruction; for in the language of the wise man, it may be observed, that "by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread." * The number of these wretched creatures is calculated to be 10,000. Anciently the crimes of adultery and fornication were punished by fine; that for the former being 100, and for the latter 50 dollars. A declaration of the female to the fact was held to be sufficient, without further evidence, to dissolve marriage. About a century ago, in case of her refusing to confess, and betray the partner of her crime, the woman underwent a torture denominated the thumb-screw; in other words, her right thumb was placed between two pieces of wood, to which was attached a screw, and this was tightened to extort confession.

The following are the most remarkable peculiarities regarding the marriages and funerals of the Hamburghers. The lady's friends provide the household linen, and the marriage-ceremony is performed, not in *facie ecclesiæ*, but at her residence, as is the practice in Scotland. The ceremony is conducted with great pomp, and one

* Prov. vi. 26.

or two days previous the bride sits in a kind of state to receive the congratulations of friends. It is said the parties, in general, bargain with each other as if purchasing goods; and, in this view, a daughter is frequently betrothed by her father, from mere motives of interest, to a person whom, perhaps, she has hardly seen. This practice brings to my recollection a remarkable instance of the same custom which I witnessed in Egypt; when happening to be in the house of some one, I was introduced by him to his "papa," as he called him, with whom he was entering into negotiation for his daughter, and his consent was a *sine quâ non* with both of the parties. On the birth of a child it is usual for the parents to make out a list of their acquaintance, and send a maid-servant, accompanied by a boy from the foundling hospital, to their houses with the infant, when a small present is made, which is actually registered in a book kept for that purpose. Should the young visitor be a boy, the gratuity is greater than when it happens to be of the other sex. Birth-days are kept with great festivity; and on these occasions, also, considerable presents are made. There are likewise some peculiar customs observed when a death takes place, which to an Englishman appears strange: the event is announced not only by ringing the bells of the town, but also by the sound of trumpets

from the steeples; and, of course, the noise thus made is in proportion to the rank or opulence of the deceased. The knocker of the outer door of the house is also tied up with black crape. What is hardly less extraordinary, the Hamburghers seldom attend the remains of their departed friends to the tomb; but the body is committed to the care of certain persons whose profession it is to perform the last office, and who may be truly said to "mimic sorrow when the heart is not sad:" of these are several classes, and at the head of them are a set of public officers, sixteen in number. Their costume is a large wig, with a double row of huge curls, black gowns, broad plaited ruffs, and cocked hats, which they carry in their hands. About twelve of them attend the funerals of respectable citizens: they walk on the sides of the hearse, two and two, each holding a lemon in his hand,—a custom of which we could not learn either the intention or origin. The hearse is something in the shape of the frame of a four-posted bed, with a tester ornamented with fringe; and the coffin, as at the burials of Quakers, has no pall. When it is laid in the grave, the usual parting ejaculation is, "God rest thy soul!" after which the sable group instantly disperse.

There are a great many printing-offices, and several newspapers are published, the price of

which is as low as one penny or two-pence each.

The markets of Hamburgh are excellently supplied; and it is said there are three distinct species of fish for every month in the year. The prices of provisions were reasonable: for instance, beef 4*d.* per lb., veal 5*d.*; ducks 1*s.* 4*d.* each; butter 6*d.* per lb.; forty eggs for 6*d.*; potatoes 1*s.* per sack, and coals 6*s.* per ton.

In no city, perhaps, in Europe, are there so many wretched mis-shapen objects among the lower classes, for at almost every other step one meets with some instance of physical deformity or mal-conformation — persons either crooked, hunch-backed, lame, or curtailed of the usual proportions of the human frame. By some this prevalence of deformity is attributed to injudicious management during infancy by nurses. It is indeed most unaccountable to see mothers, in general, as soon as they are delivered, dismiss their offspring, and delegate the power of nursing them to another, whose object is gain, not love for the child, and whose care of it will be merely that of a hireling and drudge. How often have we occasion to hear the observation, that a person of bad temper has imbibed it with the milk of his nurse! And it will be found too true, that infants suck in the passions as well as the diseases of nurses; and though they are born

of parents of the most amiable dispositions, yet they may be corrupted by the bad temper of nurses. Frequently, too, the most loathsome of diseases has been communicated to an infant by a nurse of vicious morals. Let mothers consider seriously these important truths, and nurse their own children, else how can they be entitled to the name of mothers, when they refuse to engage in a duty they are so imperiously called on to exercise, by the law of nature and affection? Mothers will naturally be more careful of their children than any hired person. If, however, they are obliged to have recourse to nurses, let them ascertain that they are free from bodily dieases, and vicious passions. Another reason assigned for the prevalence of deformity is the damp cellars and apartments under ground, where children are brought up; and in a great degree, also, to the absurd and pernicious custom of clothing young children in such tight dresses as to impede the free motion of their limbs; also to the equally mischievous one of placing them, while thus bandaged up, between two feather-beds, occasionally setting the poor little creatures upon the damp floor, during the perspiration thus excited. Happily, this preposterous hot-bed and mummy-bandaging system — a system that has either destroyed the lives or ruined the constitutions of thousands of unfortunate beings — is yielding

to the dictates of common sense. It is no longer necessary to caution English mothers against such barbarity towards their helpless offspring, for air, with light and free clothing, are now allowed to be essentially conducive to the health, and consequently the cheerfulness of children; and even did the latter in nowise contribute to it, yet it would still be preferable to the former uncouth fashion, as being more graceful and elegant. So many accidents, indeed, happen to infants committed to nurses, which render them cripples for life, that it is, perhaps, a blessing, that some parents cannot afford to send their offspring out to nurse, but that this duty must devolve entirely on the mother. Pulling, for instance, an infant by the arm to mend its pace, and swinging it by one arm when crossing any place, are practices from which severe effects have been produced, their tender joints being dislocated. An idea has, in general, been entertained, that there are more deformed objects of the female than the male sex, which is accounted for by the greater delicacy of the former; by the present system, too, the brain is strengthened, and the growth of the hair, and dentition, are promoted. In many parts of the world my feelings have been shocked to see infants rolled up from neck to toe, like a bale of goods, and unable to move from the spot, lying like inanimate objects. Before leaving this im-

portant subject, let me be permitted to caution parents and guardians to inflict moderate chastisement on their offspring, since melancholy effects have been produced by acts of severity, and instances have occurred of children destroying themselves in consequence.*

The female servants here are never seen in the streets without an oblong oval basket beneath their arm, covered with a shawl or handkerchief, so that one might almost imagine that they were bearing an infant's coffin. The dress of these domestics is a short bodice, with a large black silk apron round them, like a petticoat; they do not wear bonnets, and their caps, which come just behind their ears, have a broad stiff cambric border, which, flying back as they move along, leaves the countenance fully exposed. Wages are low, not more than four pounds a year; but it is customary for visitors to deposit something for the servants in a box at the door, the contents of which are divided among them monthly.

The charitable institutions are numerous: one founded in 1556, is for inferior seamen; a second for 150 poor aged persons; a third for 80 old women and 70 men. Among the rest is an hospital for sick maid-servants, to which fami-

* One instance occurred in Glasgow, April 27. 1827, where a child, having been beaten cruelly by her mother, threatened to make away with herself, and actually suspended herself from a beam.

lies, on subscribing three marks yearly, have the privilege of recommending a patient. The proportion of paupers in this city is 12,000, or one tenth of the whole population.

The students are distinguished by small bonnets, bushy hair, shirt collars thrown open, very short frocks without collars, and wide trowsers. The dress of the higher classes by no means corresponds with English ideas of fashion or elegance; while that of the lower orders, particularly of the females, resembles the Dutch; and their enormous protuberance of hips and petticoats, and bunches of black ribbon tied to their hair behind, give them a most grotesque, and certainly not very fascinating appearance. Among the other sex every trade appears to have its distinct costume: bakers, for example, may be recognised by their black waistcoats and white caps and aprons; carpenters by long blue coats, cocked hats, and long leather aprons; porters by short jackets and leather aprons; and waiters at taverns by their green aprons, &c.

In so populous a place, which has so many poor, and is resorted to by persons of all nations, it is surprising to find so few beggars. Few persons are fonder of amusements than the natives of Hamburgh, *vive la bagatelle* being the order of the day with all ranks. Smoking is very prevalent, and indulged in by mere boys; while dancing, cards, chess, billiards, and skittles have quite their

due share of attention. Nor, although Protestantism is the professed religion, is Sunday a day of cessation from festivity: on the contrary, if to indulge in every species of pleasure be to observe the Sabbath, few people have greater claims to be esteemed devout than the good citizens of Hamburgh, for then every one seems in quest of amusement and indulgence, and the crowded streets have more the appearance of fair time than of a season of religious worship. How different is this mode of spending the day that God set apart for himself from that observed in our own country!

——— " Much I love
Thy tranquil dales, but most on Sabbath eve,
Wandering, stopping oft to hear the song
Of kindred praise arise from humble roofs;
Or when the simple service ends, to hear
The lifted latch, and mark the grey-hair'd man—
The father and the priest — walk forth alone
Into his garden plot or little field,
To commune with his God in secret prayer."

There is a diversion here, which takes place in July, called " shooting at the bird;" when a company of archers, headed by one of the senators, and attended by a military escort, proceed to a spot out of one of the gates, where they aim at the wooden figure of a bird, fixed upon a lofty pole. The senator is entitled to the first shot, and the others in succession till the effigy falls.

This amusement sometimes continues a whole week. The person who brings down the last fragment of it is decorated with a silver breast-plate and medal, and is formally proclaimed "king" for the ensuing year. We happened to be present at a wedding in the hotel, which we were induced by curiosity to attend. The ceremony was extremely simple: the clergyman, a portly personage, almost as bulky as Sir John Falstaff, attended in his black gown, with a large platted standing-up ruff about his neck: after reading the service, he asked the parties if they were willing to be joined in matrimony, to which they nodded assent. On this, other questions were put to them, when each drew a ring from their fingers over the gloves they wore, and exchanged them, taking at the same time each other's hand, when the priest pronounced them married in name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The bride and bridegroom then repeated the Lord's Prayer, and the minister shook hands with them. The party then sat down, on which wine and cake were handed round; and in the centre of the table was a pedestal, on which was a representation of two hearts united.

There is a great bustle in this city, particularly among merchants, and you do not perceive, as in other German towns, any appearance of indolence and inactivity, but all is life and animation.

The environs of Hamburgh are pleasant; trees are planted on each side at equal distances with formal regularity, and boards put up, intimating that those who injure them in any way shall be subjected to corporal punishment. The road to Altona, about two miles distant, is much frequented by loungers, and there is a great intercourse between that place and Hamburgh.

Altona is beautifully situated on the Elbe, and forms part of the Danish dominions. The origin of this name is said to have arisen from some bickerings between the Hamburghers and Danish fishermen, who had erected huts here, when the former used expressions signifying it was All-to near. Previously to 1661, it does not appear to have been a town. When we consider that this place was set in a blaze by a Swedish army in 1713, and the act encouraged by the Hamburghers, who entertained a hatred against the Danes, and that the gates of their city were shut against the miserable inhabitants who had escaped from the devouring element, and ran to it as a place of refuge, it is impossible not to look upon those sufferings which the Hamburghers endured when their city was taken possession of by the French under Davoust, as being, in some degree, merited by the barbarity of their ancestors. The Swedes, it may be observed, invaded Altona at the suggestion of the Hamburghers as their friends; and, on the

other hand, the French entered it by the advice of the Danes, their allies, which is strongly demonstrative of that retribution on the part of Heaven, which holds out a most striking lesson to rival states and cities. About 10,000 troops of Denmark had marched to the vicinity of Hamburgh, for the purpose of making common cause with the troops of the allies; but owing to the political discussions of the Danish cabinet with England and Sweden, a change took place; the Danes declared for France, and entered into the views of Vandamme, who bombarded Hamburgh. It will be unnecessary to enter into all those atrocities, nay, unparalleled acts of enormity and violent outrage, committed by the French against those brave men who dared to stand forth in the cause of patriotism; neither is it requisite to describe minutely the tyrannical and oppressive government of Davoust in 1813. This person, so distinguished for his ferocity and cruelty, burned and demolished 1500 houses. About 1600 families were stripped of their beds; the sick and helpless — nay, as a refinement of cruelty, the very inmates of hospitals, the deranged, blind, and bed-ridden, were hurried away, and turned out to the rude blasts, and that in the middle of a severe winter, in order to make way for the accommodation of those myrmidons who

had accompanied him to accomplish the work of devastation and destruction. Many Rachels, alas! were seen weeping for their children, and would not be comforted; and deeds of horror were then committed, which will ever remain an indelible stain on the French character in the faithful page of history.

The buildings, or, rather, mass of ruins, between Hamburgh and Altona, which we saw shortly after this event, were in a most frightful state. The bank was plundered of silver coin and bars to the amount of 700,000*l.*; in short, the most heart-rending scenes took place, and every thing that the greatest tyranny — that the most satanic and vindictive imagination could possibly devise, was employed to wring tears and lamentations from the inhabitants, rob them of their privileges, and plunder them of their property. The population was thus reduced from 120,000 to 40,000; all sacred rites were treated with open contempt, every religious and moral precept despised, thousands reduced to starvation, and the most diabolical expedients had recourse to, by this satellite and instrument of that restless individual who was the scourge of the civilised world, in order to accomplish that revenge which he was resolved should be visited on the citizens of this free and ancient city. In a word, the name of Davoust is, and

ever will be, justly held here in the greatest possible execration.

Altona is a cheerful place; it contains 35,000 inhabitants, and the present governor is a nephew of Marshal Blucher.* Several handsome houses are on a mall in the upper part of the town, where are charming walks. The public gardens, which are laid out with taste, look down on the river, and are crowded in the evenings of summer, when the views of the Elbe, especially at sunset, are highly beautiful. The taxes are greater than at Hamburgh, the place being considered more fashionable for residence. There is one imposed on the canine species: the name of the owner of the animal is duly entered in a register, and a number marked on its collar, so that in case of accident occurring, the owner may be traced and held responsible for it. This arose from Prince Christian, the present heir apparent to the Danish throne, having been, on one occasion, attacked by a dog here. The town is inclosed with gates, which, when they were first erected, thirteen years ago, yielded a revenue of 57,500 marks during one year, from the duties exigible at them. Of all the objects in this quarter most striking to a contemplative mind, is the sacred spot near it,

* This venerable warrior was born at Rostock, in 1747.

where the ashes of the immortal Klopstock are deposited, whose name will descend to the latest posterity as that of a Christian bard — one whose moral worth was in no respect inferior to his poetical genius.

CHAP. II.

Leaving Hamburgh. — Price of posting. — Roads. — Boitzenberg. — Dress of peasants. — State of crops. — Lubthen. — Woods. — Prussia. — Lenzen. — Perleberg. — Storks. — Kletzke. — Chateaux. — Kuritz. — Fair. — Peasantry. — Fehrbellin. — Travelling machines. — Optical deception. — State of roads. — Henningsdorf. — River Havel. — Enormous stones. — Remarks. — Arrival at Berlin.

Among other arrangements preparatory to leaving Hamburgh, we engaged a servant who could speak the Russian language. The agreement was expressed in writing, and copies of it exchanged, a precaution that ought strongly to be recommended to travellers, in order to prevent those disputes which too often arise when the parties make only a verbal contract. We also purchased a light barouche and fire-arms; and having provided ourselves with passports, proper money, &c. set out on the morning of the 10th of June. For three horses we paid 13 marks 8 skillings, or 18*s.* sterling, for fifteen miles; and it should be observed, that the expense, on departing from this place, is greater than at any future stages.

About three miles beyond this city our route lay across a long tract of deep sand, and we passed through Bergdorff. The houses here are built of brick, with rows of trees in front of them; and as one proof how much the place is exposed to fire, there was an engine stationed at each end of it. Of the tediousness of our progress, and the state of the roads, the reader may form some idea, when he is told that it occupied from nine in the morning till two o'clock in the afternoon, to travel five English miles; a pace better suited for cogitation, or adapted to the wishes of a draftsman desirous of sketching the landscape, than gratifying to those who relish the excitement of rapid locomotion. Those who would appreciate Macadam's labours, and the excellence of English horses and vehicles, should make a pilgrimage here. Much unnecessary detention, too, was occasioned by the tardy manner in which horses are changed at the different stations. The postillions wear a costume or uniform consisting of a dark red jacket, with broad binding at the bottom, yellow cuffs and collars, and the king's initials attached to the breast. Their hats are edged with yellow binding, and their whips are of unusual length, although they ride on horseback. The horses are large, with long tails, and the leader is about eight feet distant from the two abreast. We travelled along a heath, and the monotonous dulness of the route was

greatly increased by that silence and gravity so peculiar to German postillions, and forming so marked a contrast to those of France, who are all life and animation, and keep you constantly in good-humour by their loquacity and wit. This road was one of the very worst we had hitherto travelled, and the scantiness of the population most striking; but after changing horses at Lunnenberg, a charming view of the Elbe presented itself, with an extensive wooded country beyond it. The inclosures were formed of turf, on the top of which were birch trees planted in close order. The windings of the road were sharp, quick, and narrow, which obliged our driver to sound his horn as a warning to those coming in a contrary direction, in order to prevent accidents. We arrived the same night at Boitzenberg, having travelled thirty-five miles in ten hours. This is a neat place, containing 5000 inhabitants; and the houses, one story in height, are first formed of a frame of wood, that is afterwards filled up with brick, leaving the wood exposed, which is often painted. Early next morning we resumed our journey, and found that we required all our patience; for such was the crawling pace at which we proceeded, that the only thing by which it would gain, by comparison, would be the motion of the hands of a clock-dial. That which most served to put us in good-humour was the

sight of so many groups of industrious, contented peasants sallying forth to their daily labour, with their various implements upon their shoulders, and singing their rustic ditties. The dress of females was a small cottage bonnet of straw, with green riband, a drugget petticoat, blue stockings, and slippers with thick heels formed of wood. We crossed the river Suna in a large hollow boat; and on halting at the other side, two women acted as hostlers, and fed the horses with black bread. In consequence of the great depth of sand, we were obliged to deviate from the high road, and proceed across fields, passing through some villages. The houses stood detached, and had roofs of a prodigious height, covered with thick thatch of a black colour, but not a single chimney was to be seen; a circumstance that does not at all add to their picturesque effect, or suggest any of those pleasing ideas associated with such objects, but more characteristic of a barn; and it should be noted, too, that in these dwellings, barn and stable, lodging for beast and poultry as well as men, and sometimes shops, are all comprised beneath one roof. The country now became pleasant and wooded: some of the crops, especially the barley, were farther advanced than in England at the same season. On some of the commons the flocks of geese were, in fact, so numerous, that at a distance the ground appeared

as if actually covered with snow. Such is the passion here for smoking, that children about ten years of age might be seen with pipes in their mouths, whiffing with great gravity and composure. In some places, the road was exceedingly broad, and in others so extremely narrow that two carriages could hardly pass. We now arrived at Lubthen, a small village, where a new church had just been erected by the Duke of Mecklenburg, and we again paid post horses in advance.

We set off, after being obliged to take six horses, and our carriage was pursued by a crowd of urchins, bawling out for money; and the competition that ensued from their scrambling for what we flung among them, in a cloud of dust, was most ludicrous, and showed that they, as well as more important persons, had their difficulties in picking up cash. The road became worse, and the horses were obliged to proceed at a funeral pace; in fact, it was just as bad as any I had passed in the sandy deserts of Egypt. Posts were erected at certain distances, to mark the direction of the road when covered with snow. After dragging along, we stopped mid-way, and paid a toll of sixteen skillings, not, as may be supposed, for making a proper carriage road, but for erecting bridges, formed of logs of wood, over some streams, and in miserable repair. The road ran along a heath,

and through a wood; but there being no regular track, it was left to the post-boy to find one in the best manner he could. Dreary and monotonous as these deep-wooded places appear to the eye, yet he who is of a contemplative mind might say he there —

> "Found tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
> Sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

This wood, however, seemed a fit place for robbing and assassination, and its horror was increased by the spot being pointed out to us where a female had been murdered by a man and woman whom she had unfortunately fallen in with at the last post-house, and who offered to accompany her through this lonely forest. They effected their escape to Hamburgh, but the strong arm of justice overtook them: they were transmitted to Butzo near Berlin, and executed. The peasants had an appearance of poverty, being ill-dressed, dirty, and without either shoes or stockings. The females wear woollen stays, shirt sleeves, and black skull-caps close to the head, tied under the chin. At Collens, where we next stopped, we were again obliged to take six horses. The animals were unshod, and their hoofs ragged and torn. At length after toiling along with these miserable substitutes for English horses, and passing through another dismal wood, we quitted

the Mecklenburg territories, and entered those of Prussia. The spot where the latter commence was distinguished by a board with an inscription, surmounted by the Prussian eagle, and placed upon a post painted with black and white stripes.

On passing a wooden bridge, where a small sum was demanded, we beheld an antique chateau with a belfry attached to it, and here had the first view of the cultivation of the hop plant in the village of Sedor. The rye, barley, and potatoes were in a most forward state. We crossed another bridge, connected with the gate of Lenzen, which we entered in the evening; thus travelling fourteen hours to-day, in the course of which we proceeded only thirty-five miles. The expense to this place from Hamburgh, a distance of seventy-five miles, allowing five English to one German mile, was 5*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* At entering the town our attention was attracted by a young damsel who was engaged in an operation not very poetical, and but little according with the delicacy and tenderness attributed to the sex, — namely, in killing and cutting up a sheep in the public street with the greatest *sang froid*. We learned from the landlord of the inn where we put up, that the king had been here to consult as to the formation of a good and direct road from the capital to the Mecklenburg

territories, which, if accomplished, must prove of great advantage not only to travellers, but the country generally.

This place has a population of about 3,000. The houses are built of brick, with gardens behind, and arm-chairs are placed in front of them in the streets. By the public fountains stand large vats for the supply of water in case of fire. A great trade is carried on in the making of butter, which is put up in casks and sent to Berlin, Mecklenburg, and Denmark. The burying-ground, which is very properly without the town, is about four acres in extent, surrounded by a wall five feet in height. The charge for burying a person is six dollars, or 1*l.* sterling.

Having rested the sabbath-day in this place, it afforded us an opportunity of observing the form of their divine service. The church is of brick, in the Gothic style of architecture, and in the form of a cross. The altar, which is in the shape of an antique monument, has a painting of the Last Supper. The portraits of former pastors, and the renowned Saxon Reformer, are hung over the principal entrance, under the effigy of our Saviour: at the feet is the representation of a swan, which it appears impossible to explain. It is the custom for the two sexes to sit separate from each other. Service commences at ten in

the morning, and two o'clock in the afternoon. The psalms for the day are marked on boards hung over the wall. There is an organ, in front of which sit a few singing-boys, but they had no leader; neither is there any clerk.

The sight of this instrument in a country where the recollection of Luther is so much cherished, and his principles maintained as the popular religion, brought to mind an observation he made in reference to it — that "by sacred musical notes anger is forgotten — the devil is driven away — tribulation and evil thoughts expelled — and it is the solace of a desponding mind."

The afternoon service commenced with solemn peals from the organ, which the congregation accompanied with their voices, which were loud and harsh. This being ended, the junior clergyman mounted the pulpit with a Bible, the senior taking his seat opposite to him. At this time, he first repeated the Lord's Prayer, some of the hearers standing, but the majority sitting, as was the case during the time of singing. These ceremonies were followed by a short exhortation; when after a psalm had been sung, the sermon commenced, and lasted for about half an hour. This being finished, he pronounced a second time the Lord's Prayer, gave out a psalm, and, after repeating a prayer, descended from the pulpit, proceeded to the vestry, and

did not again appear. The congregation again sang, accompanied by the organ; on which each offered up a private ejaculation, and all, including the senior minister, left the church. On this occasion there was no collection for the poor.

One circumstance that struck me forcibly on this occasion was the nest of a swallow, with its young, exactly over the altar, the parent bird twittering and flying about it. It was impossible to look upon this without being forcibly reminded of many parts of the sacred oracles where this particular bird is marked out, as of a privileged kind, from being permitted to construct her nest in the cloister of the sanctuary of Jehovah *; and it was ranked among those whose likeness was an object of idolatry under the Mosaic dispensation. †

It may be further observed, that in this place it is a practice on Sunday, and about mid-day, for boys with psalm-books under their arms, accompanied by a leader in a cocked-hat and black cloak, to proceed along the streets, and sing for a short time opposite to different houses. They happened to chant in front of our hotel, and then turned round to the house opposite, where there was a person most actively engaged at the

* "Yea, the swallow hath found a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even thine altar, O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God." Psalm lxxxiv. 3.

† Deut. iv. 15—17.

time in making pipes for smoking! Although I do not pretend to know the particular tenets of Lutheranism, yet if it formed part of them, that persons should be at liberty to keep open their shops, and exercise their vocation on the seventh day of the week, which God so peculiarly styled his own, and upon which he so expressly declared that all labour should be suspended, it appears to call loudly for correction, and most unquestionably does not correspond with the Protestant principles acted upon in our own country.

We set out next morning at four o'clock, and with most shabby-looking cattle. The postilion was decked out in a large black hat, glazed, with the Prussian arms in front, a stripe of orange-colour round it, long blue coat, with collar and cuffs of a similar colour, a winding-horn over his right shoulder, and a pipe in his mouth — offering not the slightest apology for thus *incensing* us, although the smoke kept blowing into the carriage. For a short time we passed along the banks of a river, when the road struck through a wood of birch and pine, and along a heath, where we found ourselves in the same dreary tract of sand as before. Mile-stones of a pyramidal form began to appear five miles beyond the town, and the quarters of miles are marked on the pedestals on which they are erected. Several pieces of land were under crops; and it

appeared surprising to see any vestige of vegetation on such a soil, and where no manure had been laid; as much so, in fact, as to behold vines springing up in the lava of Mount Ætna.

In the course of this stage, we fell in with two Jews, travelling in a vehicle as remarkable for its singularity as its wretchedness, it being similar to a low shattered or ricketty cart, with extremely small wheels, and a roof like a basket, covered with coarse cloth, and drawn by a most feeble rosinante, only harnessed about the neck and breast with a kind of hoop connected with the extremity of the shafts. Their long black beards, and grim and savage figures muffled up in black cloaks, gave them the appearance of leaders of a band of robbers. We found they had been travelling from Warsaw, and had been nearly a month on the road. Prudence had most probably suggested the adoption of this miserable equipage, as being less likely to attract the cupidity of plunderers. At this place the stork, and numerous flocks of partridges, were seen running familiarly about the road.

About nine o'clock we arrived at Perleberg, where, at entering, the driver played on his horn, and by his air and gesture appeared to court applause. This is a small town, with a very antique church. It consists of 1550 inhabitants, and upwards of 200 houses. In the principal square stands a colossal statue of Roland, with

an inscription, showing it to have been erected in 1546, out of gratitude for the various acts of benevolence he had rendered the country. A box is placed on the table of the inn to receive offerings for the poor.

On quitting this place, we found the country still sandy, yet the inclosures and their luxuriant crops was a truly cheering sight after the monotonous, uninclosed, and dreary tract we had hitherto traversed. We now reached Kletzke, where the numerous storks perched on the tops of houses, with large nests of dry twigs of trees, presented a singular spectacle; and this species of the feathered tribe seem to be under no apprehension of being dislodged from their situation. Their nests are occupied only during the summer-season, for similar to swallows, they are migratory, and when the cold weather sets in, take their departure regularly for a warm climate. This fact has been established from the earliest period, and has been particularly alluded to in an observation by one of the prophets. * Although, under the Mosaic dispensation, they are ranked as unclean, yet they are supposed to be unrivalled for qualities of an amiable nature, and may be considered as domestic birds. No offence is offered to them; but, on the contrary, their visits are courted by the natives here, and they are as familiar as sparrows,

* Jer. viii. 7.

as is confirmed by holy writ. Bustle is shunned by them, particularly of towns, and they utter a noise similar to that of a watchman's rattle when heard at a distance.

In Egypt and Asia I found this bird an object of peculiar veneration, since they are considered as of good omen wherever they build; and it was a breach of policy to kill them, for the disciples of Mahomet are inclined to believe, that after death the human soul enters into these birds. I remarked, also, that they were protected in Holland. In some countries, too, asylums are actually founded for them when they arrive at an advanced age. There is one, in particular, at Fez, where funds have been bequeathed by benevolent individuals, for nursing both them and cranes, and also for burying them.

On leaving Kletzke we had a postilion, who, besides other singularities of costume, wore an orange sash round his body, and a yellow strap round his left arm. This dress, we found, is furnished every three years by government. At another stage we had three horses yoked a-breast, and shod only on their fore-feet.

After passing a château, about a mile beyond, the road proceeded through woods and heath, over a flat territory. Each side of it was planted with birch trees, which abound in this country.

The châteaux, which now began to be tolerably numerous, are all clumsy, uncouth-looking structures, the very reverse of our English villas, and have a kind of steeple-like turret on their roofs, which, at first sight, gives them somewhat the appearance of churches. At Kuritz, a place containing about 2000 inhabitants, where we now arrived, a troop of the landwehr, or militia, were in training on a contiguous common. At the time we alighted the place was crowded, in consequence of a fair held for the sale of cattle. Horses sold at an astonishingly cheap price; and among the hundreds we saw, not one had a shoe on its feet. The first view of military stationed in a Prussian town we had here. The grotesque and extraordinary groups we beheld in the streets would have formed admirable subjects for the pencil of Wilkie, the imitative powers of Mathews, or the drollery of Liston. The men wore blue coats nearly to the heels, with enormous wide boots, and the face almost covered with their hats. Females have bonnets of oil-skin, deep in front, and edged with black fringe: these are well adapted for the purpose of protecting the face from either the sun or rain, and they are also made to lie on the back and shoulders like a large cabbage-leaf, to throw off the wet. It is impossible to describe all the odd costumes of the country bumpkins we met; but it may in

general be observed, that each district is most tenacious in retaining its peculiar costume, and handing it down to succeeding generations.

On pursuing the journey, after having had our patience exhausted by the excessive length of time taken to change horses, we saw numerous flocks of sheep in every direction, and found the shepherds engaged, not in the pastoral employment of weaving garlands, but in the more useful one of knitting stockings. Churches, too, presented themselves oftener than they had hitherto done, and the steeples of all of them were of different form. After proceeding through a very long avenue, we reached Fehrbellin just at sun-set, having travelled this day seventy miles in seventeen hours, halting only to breakfast.

This town contains 140 houses, and 500 inhabitants, and may claim some distinction, from an important action having been fought in the neighbourhood nearly two centuries ago. A short distance from it, on the side of the road, is a monument, which forces itself on the eye of every traveller, erected to hand down to future ages a sanguinary contest which took place between the Prussians and Swedes on the 18th of June, 1675. The latter had taken this elevated position, when they were attacked by the enemy, who sprung from a wood on the same side of the road, about two miles distant; the Prussians chased them into a hollow on the other side of

it, when a dreadful engagement took place, which ended in victory being proclaimed in favour of the Prussians. Many skeletons of horses were a short time ago discovered here. This monument is on a pedestal five feet square, with an inscription on each side, and is surmounted by an urn. Cannons in a sloping position are placed at each corner of a plot of ground, in the centre of which it stands. The owner of the property receives annually from government a sum of money as a donation. This monument could not be viewed without recollecting those which have been erected to the distinguished heroes who fell at the memorable battle of Waterloo. We were the more led into this train of contemplation by the striking similarity of the field, woods, and houses, with those of Waterloo.

Soon after this we beheld the river Raien, which runs into the Elbe, and in the course of this route perceived many water-mills; but they were far exceeded in number by the wind-mills, which appear at very short distances from each other. In addition to these signs of industry, the peasantry and their children exhibited the ruddy bloom of health, and considerable neatness of attire; and they may certainly be adduced as favourable examples of the beneficial effects arising from healthful exercise, and simple habits of life. Rarely did we meet with a sickly-looking countenance, or one showing any

marks of intemperance. Whatever bacchanalians may sing or say in praise of their favourite beverage, and the temporary excitement it causes, it is certain that moderation in this respect, and simplicity of diet, are more conducive to health than favourable to the faculty. I was once acquainted with an individual, who, at an early period of his life, had been much addicted to the habit of indulging freely with the bottle, so much so as thereby to injure his finances: but once, when reason returned, he listened to its warning voice, and formed a resolution not to taste any other liquid than water. Nothing would induce him to transgress this resolution, although he entertained numerous guests. He lived afterwards fifty years, and died at the age of eighty, one of the most healthy, fresh, and cheerful men I ever met with.

In the centre of one part of the road a board was put up, directing travellers, in case of rain, to keep to one side of it. It is singular that, in the line of communication between two great cities, so few loaded carts or carriages are to be met with, not so many, in fact, as in some of the least frequented parts of England. Yet one thing which struck us as very remarkable, was the number of young men we met, trudging along with heavy packages or portmanteaus on their backs. These are mechanics who, according to an enactment to that purpose, are obliged,

on the expiration of their apprenticeship, to "wander" or travel from town to town three years, before they can set up in business for themselves: each carries a book, in which his route is noted down, and serves as a kind of passport. Should they meet with no employment, they shift their ground, and the magistrate furnishes them with subsistence-money, which enables them thus to proceed to another quarter. This travelling, it is almost unnecessary to add, not only contributes to health, but gives them a knowledge of the country, and enables them to acquire much information. It must be confessed, however, that such a regulation appears not only to be very harsh and arbitrary, but to favour vagabondising more than is altogether prudent. In one place we had an opportunity of observing a very curious optical phenomenon: an immense lake or sea, studded with islands, and presenting a most refreshing and delightful view, seemed to be stretched out before us, but it proved to be only a species of *mirage*, similar to that I had seen in the deserts of Egypt. This supposed water deceives also the feathered tribe, for swallows skim along it: it is a most singular and tantalising illusion, which vanishes when you approach it, and may, in all probability, be that which has been alluded to by the inspired writers. *

* Isa. xxxv. 7. Jer. xv. 18.

The tiresome road of sand still continued, with the willow-tree planted on each side of it with studied regularity, and we passed some extensive commons. On entering the village of Cremmen to breakfast, the driver, knowing I was an Englishman, and in hopes I should pay the piper, played "God save the King."

In many of the fields we observed a plan adopted to prevent stacks of hay being carried off by the wind: this consists in first fixing firmly into the ground a high pole, placing the hay round it, and attaching straw-ropes to the top of it, so that they may spread over, and be tightened round the bottom. The carts here are of the most clumsy construction, being of great length, and sloping towards the horse, so that when loaded, they throw a great weight on the animal. They are formed of pieces of wood five feet long, which are fixed at each end, and sliding boards are introduced as sides. Sometimes the cart consists merely of two poles, with two cross pieces of wood. In front of many of the houses were boards, with the number of the regiment of militia under which the residents had been classed. We arrived at Henningsdorf, where the mode of erecting monuments is to fix a pole in the ground four feet in height, with a board at top painted white, on which is an inscription in black letters.

Leaving this place, we passed a bridge over

the river Havel, navigable to Berlin for small craft. At the end of it is a toll-gate, where it is not the custom for the keeper to come out, but the money is put into a net-bag fastened to a stick, and so drawn in at the window. These barriers are formed in a simple manner, compared with the expensive gates in our country. For example, the house stands on one side of the road, and opposite to it is a heavy block of wood, about four feet fixed in the ground: a high pole is fixed into the top of this, about three feet high, which is secured at one end by an iron pin or bolt, which is, of course, very weighty, and from thence to the other extremity of it, tapers gradually to the point. On the top of this is attached a cord, and sometimes a chain, to draw it down; so that when the chain is loosened, the weight at the extremity occasions it to pull up, and remain in an upright position. The end of this chain is carried through an aperture of the wall, both to keep it in a greater state of security, and to enable the keeper to open and shut the barrier without stirring out of the house. In the Prussian states these gates are painted in white and black stripes alternately. The toilsome tract of sand still continued, and we were dragged along at the very slowest pace. In many parts were neat white cottages, which bore a strong resemblance to those about Stockholm. A discharge of ar-

tillery during a review appeared to announce we were now approaching the capital. We passed a second barrier, and rejoiced on finding, at last, the termination of the sandy tract, and now proceeded along a regular road formed on the Macadamising system, the first we had seen since we left Hamburgh: — this is the road which it is proposed to make to Mecklenburg. It will then be the interest of the Duke to continue it to the Hamburgh territory, and of that city to extend to its own gates. Each German mile, which is equal to five English, will, it is said, cost 400*l.* The great expense arises from the want of materials, there being no stone quarries; yet huge stones of granite may be found scattered over the fields, and by the side of the roads, which may be turned to account for such a purpose. These actually seem to have been rained*, or rather thrown up by some violent convulsion of nature. From their appearance and depth in the ground, one would imagine that they must have remained since the Deluge. Some of them are of most enormous magnitude, and great exertions

* Doubtful as this may at first sight appear, a Philadelphia paper has mentioned that on the 26th of May, 1825, a spitting of stones took place at Nashville, which ended in a regular shower. Several sunk twelve inches into the earth, weighed 11½ lbs., and this phenomenon was accompanied by a noise resembling that of the firing of cannon or muskets by platoons, and beating of drums; and, it is added, this is quite a common occurrence.

were making to dig about them and then blow them with gunpowder, and break them, in order to lay down at the sides of the road. Thus a double advantage is derived; for not only are excellent materials furnished to make a road, but the fields are cleared of the stones, and can be ploughed up without interruption, which had hitherto been altogether impracticable; property, too, is consequently enhanced in value.

At the distance of three miles a view of Berlin presented itself with its spires and windmills; and after passing a barrier, where it is singular that no offer was made to search our baggage, we were set down at a hotel in the Linden-Street; and on entering it, the passports were demanded, and our names and "character" entered in a book, for the purpose of being communicated to the police.

CHAP. III.

Berlin. — Architecture. — Fashionable promenade. — Brandenburg gate. — Public buildings. — Statues of Dessau and Elector Frederick. — Palace. — The King's small palace. — Arsenal. — Royal guard-house. — Blucher's statue. — Opera-house. — King's private habits. — Anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. — New theatre. — Academy of Arts. — Exchange. — Museum. — Churches. — University. — Royal library. — Gallery for Egyptian antiquities. — Facility of admission to public institutions on the Continent. — Mint. — Prostitutes and beggars. — Benevolent institutions. — Vaccination, &c. — Population. — Taxes. — Police. — Prisons. — Punishments. — Income of the King and family. — Revenues of the state. — Post-office. — Orders of merit. — Hotels. — Wool-fair. — Royal foundery. — Manufactures. — Hatred against the French. — Letter from the King to the author on presenting a work. — Public walks. — Charlottenberg. — Tomb of the Queen. — King's second marriage. — Gardens. — Palace of Bellevue. — National monument. — Anecdotes.

BERLIN may justly be considered the most beautiful and interesting city in this part of Europe, its general appearance being grand and imposing. It stands on the river Spree, may be calculated to be about fourteen miles in circumference, and to contain a population of upwards of 200,000 inhabitants. Within these few years it

OF THE
BOMBAY
BRANCH

Blucher's Monument &c.

has considerably increased, and there are a number of buildings now erecting in the environs, besides several very splendid edifices that are actually in progress, which will contribute greatly to the embellishment of the city. Berlin has fifteen gates and is surrounded by walls and pallisades. The streets are, in general, both straight and wide, and of a considerable length: some of them exceed in width those of almost every other capital I have seen; and there are likewise several spacious squares. The river, which is here navigable for small vessels, runs through the streets, and hence the latter bear some resemblance to those in the Dutch towns, particularly as trees are planted before the houses. There being no regulations for building, some of the houses are lofty, others low, and of different forms and dimensions. The soil is dry, and absorbs the rains, however heavy; but the clouds of dust during summer are as offensive to the eyes as to the organs of respiration. About one half of the year the air is piercing, in autumn wet, and in the winter severe. Although the houses are constructed of brick, they are stuccoed in so excellent a manner as to resemble stone; indeed it requires a skilful eye to detect the imitation; and so many of them are embellished with columns, and other architectural ornaments, as to produce a fine effect. In this respect the streets of Berlin may be compared with our Re-

gent-street and Pall Mall East, in London. Yet one thing, that does not indicate the best taste, is, that the exterior of many of the houses is painted, not of a stone colour, but green and yellow, or red and blue, &c.; the effect of which is more bizarre and gay than pleasing. Many of them have reflecting glasses on the outside, after the Dutch mode, to enable the inmates to see the objects in the streets without opening the windows, and the latter have also canvass blinds projecting on the outside. Yet, amidst all this show and splendour, the Berliners have neglected to provide themselves with what is absolutely necessary in a great city, or indeed any town — we mean a common shore; instead of which, the water and filth are allowed to stagnate in the gutters, so as to occasion a most offensive stench. In fact, this nuisance is, at times, so abominable, that it is impossible to keep a window open, without being nearly suffocated by the disgusting odour. What, too, is very extraordinary, the gutters, thus loaded with filth, are opposite to the houses of the nobility and persons of distinction, with merely a cover of wood thrown over them to screen the offensive view. Custom may undoubtedly reconcile people to much that is at first disagreeable; yet it is difficult to conceive how it can inure any people, calling themselves civilised, to such physical abominations, and to what is actually preju-

dicial to health. How is it possible to enjoy the splendour of architecture, while the sense of smelling is so nauseously offended? one might almost as easily endure to eat carrion, if it were served up on gold plate. Surely the government should get rid of such a disgraceful nuisance in the capital, which, we are persuaded, has met with the reprobation of all travellers.

In front of most of the houses of the first class, the entrance has a gentle ascent, with massy railings. These are extremely awkward, a most glaring encroachment on the footpath, and a great interruption to passengers; and their removal would contribute to the beauty of the streets. Many of the principal edifices are lofty and extensive. The houses contain an extraordinary number of windows, some of which are made double in order the more completely to exclude the winter blasts. One of the most pleasant situations to reside in is what is called Unter den Linden, running from east to west, which is always resorted to as a fashionable promenade, and is to Berlin what the Prado is to Madrid, or the Prater to Vienna. This is about a mile in length, and of great breadth. In the centre is a walk sixty feet broad, ornamented with trees and seats. Houses are built on each side, and between these and the walk is a space for carriages. This promenade is crowded with all ranks and ages, especially during the evening, when numerous loungers are to

be seen on the benches; and during the heat of day it is a cool and agreeable retreat. There is a constant bustle in the Mall, and carriages are rattling to and fro continually. At one end of it to the west, is the celebrated Brandenburg Gate, a most magnificent portal or propylæum, consisting of massive columns of the Grecian Doric order, through the intervals between which is seen the Thier-garten, or Park. This fine piece of architecture, which is probably inferior to no structure of the kind in Europe, forms a most noble termination to the Linden walk.

The house of Earl Clanwilliam, the British Minister, is situated to the right of it, with an extensive garden; and opposite to this is that which was the residence of Prince Blucher. At the other extremity is the Royal Bridge, and many noble buildings connected with the military and academical institutions: this bridge is made partly to draw up to admit vessels. From the river is a canal to the Oder on the east, and another to the Elbe on the west side.

With regard to the public buildings, some of them are on an imposing scale of grandeur, and strike a traveller as peculiarly magnificent. It may be in general remarked, that great luxury is displayed here in edifices, furniture, decorations, and ornaments. Among the principal structures may be classed the Royal Palace, a short distance beyond the bridge, of a quadrangular form, and

covering a great extent of ground. It is about 300 feet wide, upwards of 100 feet in height, and one part of it fronts a garden formerly used for exercising troops, where is a statue erected to the memory of Prince Dessau, who organised the Prussian infantry. Another side looks towards the Spree; and a third to an area or square, and to the bridge over the river, connecting old and new Berlin. In the centre of this bridge is a colossal equestrian statue in bronze of the great elector Frederick, which weighs 3000 cwt. and was erected by his son in 1703. This has been extolled for the majestic character the artist has invested the elector with: so far indeed as regards mere execution, it deserves praise; but it is not that memorial a prince would wish erected, for the figures of slaves introduced are fitter to perpetuate the memory of a despot than a christian ruler. Over the the principal gateways to the court, which is very noble, are lofty columns resting on high pedestals, ornamented with a variety of devices. Among the inscriptions over some of these is the following, which had just undergone great repair:—

"HOC SVIS FREDERICUS."

Strange, however, to say, directly opposite to one of the entrances to the palace stands a flour-mill, which is permitted to offend not only the eye, but disturb the ear by the noise its ma-

chinery occasions. Foreigners frequently reproach us with our want of taste, but an Englishman may more often retort upon them with greater justice; for it rarely happens but that, in the midst of the greatest splendour, there is something to shock the eye — some violation of propriety and decorum — some disgusting slovenliness, or some singular infelicity of tact. The abominations of the kennels in the streets have already been mentioned, and other, though less disgusting, incongruities perpetually occur. But to return to the palace. The apartments amount to about 500; it would therefore be tedious to describe minutely the endless variety of objects of curiosity that here present themselves. Among those, however, which ought to be mentioned, is the chapel, which is adorned with twelve columns of red marble. It may, perhaps, be set apart for acts of devotion; but these must be of the most private nature, since there was not to be seen either pulpit, desk, seats, or any thing indicating a place of worship. In a state-room occupied by the King of Prussia is a throne and splendid chandelier, the gift of the Prince Regent of England, which bears a considerable resemblance to the beautiful one which was at Carlton-House. * The great ban-

* It is related, that at one of the royal marriages in England, when Her Majesty Queen Charlotte sat near it, the reflection was so powerful, from the profusion of costly dia-

queting hall contains a variety of silver articles, and about twenty jugs of various sizes, of silver, on which are medallions of the different sovereigns. One of these is four feet in height, and of such ample circumference, that when a person clasps it, he cannot make his fingers meet. The ceiling is ornamented with paintings; and there is a gallery for music, which is gilded, but was formerly of massive silver. In an adjoining room is a portrait of Blucher, with the hat worn by Bonaparte at his feet, and his mantle laid on a gun; and that of the king, as he appeared in the Place Louis XVI., at the triumphal entry of the allies to Paris.

We were now conducted to the picture gallery, which is extensive: at the end stands a cast of the Apollo Belvidere, by Vandyke. Among the pictures is a portrait of Charles I. by this artist, and several fine productions of Rubens, Rembrandt, and other first-rate masters. Several of these had been carried by Bonaparte to Paris, and since restored. One large picture, by David, represented the usurper on his favourite horse*, in the act of scaling the Alps; but since I had seen it in the Louvre, the

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monds she wore on the occasion, that Her Majesty could not be looked upon by any one without their eyes being severely affected.

* This animal died July 30. 1826.

colours had greatly faded. Many artists were occupied here in making copies. Passing through several rooms decorated with paintings, we now entered a spacious hall, where hangs the portrait of the present King, for which he sat at Verona during the congress; also those of his father and predecessors, his late lamented consort, and the Queen of Holland, his sister; and eight colossal statues of the former monarchs are arranged under the pictures. We afterwards visited another apartment full of paintings, which had been also returned as spoil that had been carried off by the French. One interesting painting may be particularly noticed, of Frederick the Great sleeping in a church on straw, whither he had retired attended by two of his generals. There is also a full-length painting of Luther, which the visitor should not fail to observe.

In the royal library the only English books I perceived were Tillotson's sermons. There is a suite of apartments which had been occupied by Bonaparte, Savary, and Bertrand, and these appeared to be the best of all; indeed in every town I have visited, which he had taken possession of, I uniformly found Napoleon took most special care to plant himself and his satellites in the most superb apartments that could possibly be selected. In one room is an elegant circular table of the finest mahogany, presented

to the King by the late Duke of York. The floors are of beautiful wood, with representations of baskets of flowers, and other ingenious devices. Under a clock is a representation of all the battles fought by Bonaparte. The coat and hat worn by him at the battle of Waterloo are shown; but these kinds of *soi-disant* relics are always to be regarded with a degree of suspicion, there being nothing to identify them; and they frequently multiply so miraculously, as to make very great demands on credulity, like the pretended pieces of the real cross, which, if the fragments shown of it be all genuine, must have contained more timber than a first-rate man of war. After all, the spectator in these cases can have no assurance that the article exhibited is actually what it is asserted to be, although there is a possibility of its being so. Where forgery is so easy, and the thing itself has nothing to distinguish it from a thousand others of the same kind, a little scepticism is pardonable. As to the cross, it may be questioned whether, if some of the fragments were compared together, they would be found to be of the same wood; and in that case, who is to say which is the genuine relic, or which the forgery, or assure us that either of them is what it is asserted to be?

We did not fail to visit the rooms once occupied by the great Frederick, whose memory is so intimately connected with almost every part of his

capital. The windows are in front of a bridge thrown over the Spree, where he had always before his eyes the statue of Frederick the First, which is a most striking and commanding object. Here are the portraits of those who had enjoyed his peculiar friendship. As no incident respecting this illustrious personage can fail to be interesting, the following is here given as being characteristic of the royal philosopher: — Just after His Majesty had imposed a high tax on coffee, he perceived a crowd assembled near the palace, and sent a valet to enquire the cause. On his return, the domestic made some hesitation to give his royal master the information required; but the King insisting on being informed, was told that an effigy was exhibited in the act of grinding coffee. On asking why the mob kept jumping up so, he was told it was because the figure was raised too high. His Majesty at once took the hint, and said, "Let it be lowered, that the people may see it more distinctly;" and from that time the duty was taken off. This anecdote reminds us of one nearly similar respecting the Empress of Russia, who enquired of some fishermen if they were satisfied with their situation. It was answered they should be, particularly with the sturgeon fishery, if their profits had not been diminished by being obliged to send so great a quantity to her stables. The hint was taken; and the

subject of complaint removed, the empress remarking that she was ignorant her horses had fed upon sturgeons.

In order to protect this magnificent palace, and its treasures, effectually against fire, there is an apparatus for raising one thousand tons of water, which can be put into full action at a moment. Although this present King has many apartments furnished for his private accommodation, yet he does not reside here, but gives a decided preference to a small edifice of two stories, situated in the Linden Walk; which is in unison with the plain and unostentatious manners of the sovereign. This is certainly a most unpretending abode for a crowned head; but the present ruler of Prussia affects extraordinary simplicity in his domestic habits. In an ante-room, leading from the hall, were tattered standards of colours and ensigns of war, with the caps of soldiers perforated with shot. In the study of the King, which fronts the street, and is not more than ten feet above the ground, there was a writing-table, with a number of books, maps, and several volumes entitled "La Sainte Bible." One large map, in a frame, was stuck with pins in those parts relating to his own dominions. In the suite of rooms up stairs were a number of paintings, principally by Italian masters. Some of these had been carried off to Paris; but were now

restored to their former situation. It is well known how affectionately attached His Majesty is to the memory of his late consort; and in a glass-case in this room is a figure of her in a sleeping attitude. Her bed-room is still kept exactly as it was at the time of her decease; and even two pictures that were left by her upon a sofa, have not since been displaced. As to the King's own chamber, nothing can possibly exceed the plainness of every article of furniture. It is likewise very small; and the only ornaments it contains, are a few paintings representing the battle of Leipsic, and the entrance of the allies into Paris, &c. The bed is in a small recess in the wall. On a writing table, his uniforms were laid out in the most systematical order. Among the various curiosities were many from Herculaneum, tripods of amber, glass basins, presents from the Emperor of Russia, paintings of the present and former families, and a large one of the King on horseback.

Opposite to this palace stands the arsenal, with an inscription over the principal gate. The great room is 200 feet in length, and surrounded by a variety of warlike devices and statues, which have an imposing effect. There is a quadrangular court, where are a number of cannon taken from the French. The upper apartment of this building, which extends round it,

forms a complete armoury, where are "shields, helms, and spears hung high." Some thousands of stands of arms, in the highest order, were arranged in many ingenious forms, such as monuments, pedestals, &c. surmounted by numerous stands of French colours. Some of these were almost new, and made to overhang different parts, as trophies wrested by the Prussians from the troops of the French Convention and Bonaparte. On many were painted the cap of liberty and the words "Premier Consul," and underneath, "Valeur et Discipline, Loi Militaire;" and on others, "Napoléon Empereur des François." Here are displayed the colours of Frederick the Great, and others, in a torn state, with four pieces of cannon bearing the date 1600. A writing is put up, intimating that those who enter the place must not touch any of the articles. On enquiring the amount of the stand of arms, we were told by the person who showed them, that he was prohibited from mentioning their number.

Adjoining this building is a royal guard-house, which is a neat edifice with a portico. On each side of it are two colossal statues in marble, of Generals Bulow and Scharnhorst, with an inscription in gilt letters, showing that they had been erected by the King in 1822. They are most prominent objects, and are executed by the same artist who made the beau-

tiful statue of the late Queen, which I shall presently speak of. Between the opera-house and palace, and opposite to these statues, stands that of the illustrious Blucher, which was first exposed to public view on the 18th of June, 1826, and of which a representation is given in the prefixed plate. This monument consists of a bronze statue of the hero, nearly 12 feet in height, placed upon a lofty pedestal fourteen feet high, on a rock of polished granite. The Prince is represented in his field-marshal's uniform, and appears resting, after victory, with his drawn sword in his right hand, and his left foot upon a mortar. On the front of the pedestal is the figure of a genius holding the following inscription :—

" FRIEDRICH WILHELM III.
DEM
FELDMARSCHALL FÜRSTEN BLÜCHER
VON WAHLSTADT
IM. JAHRE, 1826."

On the three other sides of this pedestal are bas-reliefs, and the upper part of the socle is likewise decorated with extremely rich bas-reliefs, consisting of a number of small figures, illustrative of the various victories achieved by the hero whose fame is thus recorded. The lower part of the socle has, in front, the Field-marshal's arms ; on the two adjoining sides, are a recumbent and advancing lion ; and on the back a wreath of laurel, with the dates, 1813, 1814, and 1815. The

statue and reliefs are all cast after models by Professor Rauch, and the architectural composition of the pedestal was designed by the celebrated Schinkel, to whom Berlin is indebted for many of its finest modern structures, particularly the new museum, theatre, &c.

The opera-house, which is near the king's small palace, fronts the principal street, while another side forms part of a square. Six statues ornament the top of it; and in front are these words, in gilded letters:—

"FREDERICUS REX APOLLINI ET MUSIS
MDCCXIIII."

This edifice attracts particular attention, not only from its situation but extent: it has a noble façade, with a portico of six columns, and a flight of steps on each side of it. The interior of the house is in the form of a horse-shoe, with three tiers of boxes, supported by antique figures in a stooping attitude. Each of the lower boxes contains twelve persons on a seat. The corridors and stairs are all carpeted with thick cloth, so as to prevent noise; and it would be as well if this plan were adopted in our London theatres: the box-doors are likewise edged with list, so as to prevent that interruption to the audience, occasioned by slamming them too, which is often done with more importance than good-breeding. The pit has three entrances, in front, and at

the sides of the orchestra. The royal box, which is in the centre of the house facing the stage, is in the form of a rotunda, supported by gilded pillars, and hung with draperies. Above it is the crown, and in front the royal arms. At the time we visited the theatre, this box was occupied by the Duke of Cumberland, who was in the Prussian military uniform, and one of the princes. The domestics of the King are permitted to stand in the rear of the box, which had an awkward appearance. His Majesty is said to be passionately fond of theatrical entertainments, and generally attends every night in a small box to the right of the stage, studiously avoiding all publicity. There is one of a similar form opposite to it for the accommodation of his family. No notice was taken of him, it being probably understood that he wished to remain *incognito*, and, therefore, any salutation on the part of the audience would have been a breach of etiquette. After the performance was ended, His Majesty merely looked out for a moment to view the number of persons in the house. In Denmark, on the contrary, when the sovereign rises at the theatre, all the spectators likewise get up simultaneously; and when he resumes his seat, they sit down. The musical strength of the company is very great, there being no fewer than fifty performers. The piece we saw was the opera of "Elizabeth, Queen of England;" and,

strange to say, our virgin queen was represented by an extremely short and corpulent actress, which must be allowed to be not only contrary to historical truth, but a strange disregard of *bienséance*. It was well for the people of Berlin that Her Majesty of England existed only in history, or she might have resented the affront. An entertainment followed of a military kind: the day happening to be the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, many of the Prussian soldiers came forward on the stage, and this was followed by dances of persons habited in the costumes of different nations. It was highly ludicrous to behold Scotch Highlanders dancing, not as on their native mountains, with wild gesticulation and uncouth howl, but stepping with all the affected grace of a Parisian ballet-master. Towards the support of the opera-establishment the king allows the annual sum of 50,000 dollars. His Majesty has likewise just granted a license for thirty years to some French actors to open a theatre in this capital. The new theatre erected in the place of the one which was destroyed by fire on the 28th of July, 1817, is a very extensive and magnificent edifice, erected after the designs of Professor Schinkel, who is likewise the architect of the museum now building at Berlin, and of several other classical structures, both in the capital and other parts of Prussia. This theatre is admirably situated,

being entirely insulated, and its principal façade has a most noble portico of six Ionic columns thirty-eight feet high. The ascent is by a magnificent flight of thirty steps in front, occupying the entire width of the basement: on the pedestal, at each extremity, is a female figure reclining on a panther. But as this flight of steps, however classical in appearance, would be of little service when the weather was at all unfavourable, a sub-portico, or covered way, has been formed behind it, into which carriages drive and set down the company. The pediment of the portico is decorated with sculpture, and above it are statues of Polyhymnia, Thalia, and Melpomene. A little beyond this pediment is a kind of attic or superstructure, likewise crowned with a pediment enriched with sculpture; and on its summit is a colossal figure of Apollo and Pegasus, making altogether a height of 120 feet from the ground. The walls of this edifice are entirely formed by two series of antæ; the intervals between which are filled with windows, so that the quantity of glass is enormous, and has given rise to much criticism, and some satire; it being affirmed that the building has been frequently mistaken at first by strangers for a vast conservatory. It must, however, be confessed, by every unprejudiced person, that this is altogether the most classical edifice of its kind in Europe. In

the interior are several saloons, the principal one of which is used for concerts and festivals. This spacious apartment is seventy-four feet by forty-two, exclusive of the tribune or gallery, which makes the total length 117 feet. The following inscription on the façade points out the date of the edifice: —

"FREDERICUS GULIELMUS III. THEATRUM ODEUM INCENDIO CONSUMTUM MAJORE CULTU RESTITUIT, MDCCCXXI." *

Near the theatre is the academy of arts; a large building, with a clock contrived to show the hours distinctly during night. A new square is forming at the west end of the town, to be called the Leipziger Platz, and to be ornamented with an equestrian statue. The exchange, in front of which the merchants assemble, is a neat building, with apartments up stairs for refreshments and smoking; and a reading-room adjoining, where strangers are admitted on the recommendation of a member. Among the other public buildings that were in progress at the time we visited Berlin, was the Museum just mentioned as designed by Schinkel. It is now nearly completed, and, in fact, will be opened in the course of the present year (1828). This extensive pile has a very magnificent front, con-

* Plans, elevations, sections, and perspective views, both of this theatre and the museum, may be found in Schinkel's Sammlung Architectonisher Entwurfe.

sisting of a single range of eighteen Ionic columns, and two antæ, forming a portico its whole length, 275 feet; and it is placed on a kind of terrace, the ascent to which is by a flight of steps 105 feet in width. The wall forming the back of this portico will be decorated with frescoes and bas-reliefs. Within the building are two courts, between which is situated a circular hall or rotunda, 66 feet in diameter, and 125 feet high to the summit of the dome, in which is a glazed aperture or sky-light, by which the hall is lighted, there being no other windows; in this respect, as well as its general form, it resembles the Pantheon at Rome. Around the lower part is a colonnade of the Corinthian order, supporting a gallery that communicates with the apartments on the upper floor. Among other treasures of art, this museum will contain the celebrated Solly collection of paintings. Those, who are desirous of obtaining more exact information respecting this beautiful structure, are referred to Schinkel's work, a publication deserving the attention of every lover of architecture.

Among the numerous churches, that belonging to the Roman Catholics is worth visiting. The university, which is opposite to the opera house, is on a large scale, and of a triangular form. It is adorned with six statues on the

summit, and has the following inscription on the front of it: —

VNIVERSITATEM LITERARIAM FREDERICVS GULIELMVS III. REX,
A. D. IↃIↃCCCVIIII.

The royal library, established in the sixteenth century, and forming another part of the square, is a large building ornamented with statues, and contains 200,000 volumes. We were conducted over the whole by Doctor Spiker, who, with his usual courtesy and attention to strangers,* pointed out every object of interest. A variety of scarce books were shown us; among these was an Album, with the date 1543, containing the likenesses of Luther, Melancthon, Dr. Justus James, a friend of Luther, &c. all in high preservation, and brilliantly coloured. We found, likewise, preserved here, a relic highly interesting to Englishmen; namely, the identical Bible used by our unfortunate Charles I. on the scaffold, and presented by him to Bishop Juxon. Among the books may be mentioned, a copy of the earliest Bible, 1456, which is in the best condition, and Luther's original translation of the Psalms, from which the version now used in Germany was copied. To this are annexed the prayers of the Church of England, and the

* This gentleman published his "Tour through England," &c., which was translated a few years since into our language.

Psalms, with a portion of them set to music. The oldest manuscript is a Missal so early as the year 822. There is likewise shown a model of the air-pump, the first used in this country; a Roman diploma in brass, similar to the boards of a small book, with hinges, being a grant from the Emperor Vespasian to the Roman soldiers who had served their country, and conferring on them the right of citizenship. A gallery has been founded for the collection of Egyptian antiquities, purchased at Paris for 25,000 dollars. Many of these were brought direct from that country, and some mummies have been presented to it, which will add greatly to the value and interest of this collection.

By a law formerly in force, it was enacted, that every bookseller in Prussia should send to this library two copies of every work he published, which was unquestionably an economical and expeditious mode of forming a public library: this, however, has been abolished. The library has a better pretension to the title of *public* than most institutions of the kind, for it is open to every one from two to four in the winter, and from two to five o'clock in summer. The time thus allowed for the use of it certainly appears too short to be of much actual service; but students are permitted to borrow books, on producing a recommendatory ticket from any of the professors. A similar privilege is granted to

officers of the army, to official persons, and even to foreigners, on making application to their respective ambassadors. The Prussians are, however, in general, not to be considered a reading people. Among the other objects of curiosity that attracted our attention, was the mint; in obtaining access to which, strangers experience no difficulty. And here I cannot forbear remarking, that the facility of access to all public institutions on the Continent, forms a very striking contrast to the difficulties and obstacles experienced in our country both by natives and foreigners, — one that is certainly not very favourable to our character, as a nation, for liberality. Neither is the difficulty of gaining admission to such places, or the tax imposed upon visitors, the only thing to be complained of among us, there being too frequently a want of courteousness shown on these occasions, that almost tells the stranger that he is considered an intruder, and that he ought to regard it a sufficient favour to be suffered to enter at all. The doors of St. Paul's Church and Westminster Abbey, are as cautiously closed to the public, as if the monuments of the illustrious dead who are entombed there, would have a pernicious, rather than a salutary, influence on the mind. Yet to what end do we erect memorials of great men, if, like their ashes, these records too are to be entombed, and concealed from the public

eye? It was not thus that antiquity honoured its heroes and sages —their images were continually exposed to the public gaze, and thus became familiar associations—the penates, if we may so term them, of the state. If such monuments possess no moral influence — if they are to be considered merely as holiday sights, or to be viewed but once in our lives, they are hardly worth erecting at all. This is a stigma upon us as a nation, which every well-wisher to his country must desire to see removed.

But to return to the mint:—we were first shown the process of melting the bullion, afterwards that of forming the bars from which dollars are struck, which is done by first making beds of sand of the exact size of the bar; which, having been perforated by an instrument similar to a sword, about three inches in breadth, the metal is poured into them, and the bars thus formed. The silver from which the dollars are made, is not entirely pure, there being one-third of copper to two-thirds of silver. The mode of striking the dollars, of preparing and melting the metal, and making the impressions, and the machinery employed, were all severally shown and explained to us. The stamp is made by a ponderous machine, worked by two persons, and another is turned by one at a wheel. It is calculated that 10,000 dollars may be struck off in the course of

twelve hours, and 66,000 milled.* In the year 1818, eleven millions were coined. It is impossible for the workmen to practise any deception or fraud, as both the bullion and the coin are weighed. On this occasion we did not see any gold coin.

The city of Berlin appears to be exempt from two particular nuisances which are the source of so much complaint in populous cities, namely, prostitutes and beggars. In walking about, we did not perceive one female of that unfortunate class, nor were we accosted by a single beggar. A law has been wisely introduced which deserves to be adopted in all towns, especially large capitals, forbidding persons from soliciting charity in the streets; and should any one be discovered, he is apprehended and conveyed to the work-house; or if he is unable to labour, is sent to the hospital.

Among the various benevolent institutions in the capital, is one for the instruction of the deaf and dumb, called the Royal Institute. This was founded at the expence of M. Ehke, who died about twelve years ago; and of whom it may be

* In the mint in London, such is the excellency of the machinery, that 300 pieces may be thrown off in a minute. There are eight presses, which can be put in motion in case of emergency. Each coin forty sovereigns in a minute, making as a total 320 in a minute, or 19,200 in an hour.

said, that although dead, his works still speak. His son-in-law is at present superintendant of it, and the expense is defrayed by his Majesty. Government is entitled to present candidates for admission.

There is an asylum for the blind, who are so peculiarly objects of Christian compassion, and call for the exercise of every tender and sympathetic feeling. At the head of this is Professor Zeune, son of the editor of Horace and Terence. This institution contains three other establishments, such as a clinical, and lying-in charity, and lock hospital. To these may be added an hospital for lunatics; and here it may be important to observe, that among the different modes of treatment adopted, is that of putting the patients, in desperate cases, into a box, which turns on a pivot; and while rapidly whirling round, it is suddenly stopped, so as to occasion a violent shock, which has the effect of mitigating the disease.* A second contrivance is a kind of bed, which moves round quickly, and is also capable of being stopped in a moment; and this is

* A similar machine was adopted by Lord Tyrawly, at Gibraltar, as a punishment for drunkenness; and the individual subjected to this species of rotatory castigation was generally soon restored to sobriety. Were similar machines erected in the vicinity of the liquor shops in London, they would doubtless effect many *conversions*. The only objection to such a plan would be, that they would be soon worn out by continual use.

said to be of great service in restoring the use of speech and muscular motion, in cases of paralysis.

Vaccination for the small-pox has been successfully introduced; and according to a report on mortality in Prussia, it appears that that disease formerly carried off from one-twelfth to one-tenth of the whole population; — that of twelve children born in Berlin, one formerly died of small-pox, whereas now not more than one in sixteen dies from the same cause.*

* The diseases of infants are more common than previous to the introduction of vaccination, because a greater number of them live; whereas formerly those diseases destroyed 39 in 100, but at present not more than 34 in 100 die; so that before the introduction of vaccination, 51 in 100 were cut off, while at present only 45 in 100 die. Formerly it was calculated that the proportion of deaths was 1 in 28; at present it is not more than 1 in 34.

According to the census of 1825, the population of the whole Prussian states amounted to 12,255,000; giving an increase, in the course of ten years, of 1,700,000. In the province of Stettin the births were 170,008; deaths, 11,332. Excess of births, 6676: population, 389,412. France contains 31,845,428 individuals, and Paris, 890,431. It may be remarked, that from 1816 to 1822 inclusive, the number of births was 3,346,412; of marriages, 771,649, and of deaths, 2,138,328. The number of infants who died in their first year was only one-fifth of the entire number of deaths; whereas it was formerly one-fourth. In 1822, the population was 11,663,179, of which 4,208,370 were children under fourteen years old, and 7,454,807 above that age. The number of persons married was 4,153,725. The pro-

There are from 300 to 400 Jews in this capital, and an equal number of Catholics. The former, as in Rome and other places, are not restricted to dwell in one particular part of the city, separate and distinct from the other inhabitants, as if their mixing with them would create some pestilence or disease. The total number of the Hebrew tribe in Prussia is calculated at 134,000, which exceeds that in Great Britain by 13,000 *; and they enjoy all the rights of citizens, with the exception of being excluded from filling any public employment. Paupers are supported here by voluntary subscription; and it is the office of the overseers of the different districts to make the necessary collections. Formerly the government had the charge of these matters, but they are now managed by the inhabitants.

There is only one direct tax that may be said

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portion of births is from 1 to 23, and that of deaths from 1 to 37. Again, from 1821 to 1826 inclusive, there were, on an average, 510,043 births, 320,326 deaths; an annual excess of births of 189,717, that is, of more than one-third. The population is 200,000. During ten years the population of Berlin has increased above 36,000. As to longevity, the average may be estimated at between the ages of 50 and 60, although instances have occurred of persons attaining their 90th year.

* It is somewhat remarkable, that Scotland is almost the only country where Jews are not to be found: probably both the people and the air are too keen for the Israelites; or it may be that the cast-off garments of the Scotch are not worth the attention even of a Jew.

to affect the inhabitants particularly, and which is complained of, — namely, an impost of seven per cent. on the rents of houses. During the war, taxes were laid on provisions brought into the city, — on carriages, linen, servants, dogs, &c. which have since been abolished.

In matters of religion, it must be acknowledged, that the government is liberal and tolerant; for although the established religion is Lutheranism, Catholics, Jews, and other sects, are permitted to follow their respective modes of worship. Formerly the Lutherans and Calvinists were distinct and separate bodies of Christians; but in consequence of a wish expressed by his Majesty to remove religious animosities and divisions, they are now united into one national creed. Thus, by the union of these communions, the ministers of one church may officiate in the other. But it is rumoured, that "Protestant" is not so acceptable a term to the royal ear as "Evangelical." There are twenty-eight Protestant churches, to each of which there are two, or sometimes three clergymen, whose salaries are paid partly by government, and partly out of funds arising from donations left by individuals at their death, — not after the Catholic mode, to pray for their souls, on the supposition they are in purgatory; but to administer to the comfort of their pastors who proclaim the words of eternal life to the living. In its funds, derived from this source, the cathedral of Berlin

exceeds all others in opulence. On the death of the father of a family, the property is divided into equal shares, one of which falls to the widow, and the others to the children. No burial-service is read at funerals, as in England, and it depends on the relatives or executors of the deceased to call in, or not, a clergyman to perform the last duties.

To give an effectual blow to priest-ridden fanaticism, the King has prohibited, by a special cabinet order, parents from sending their children to be educated by Jesuits out of the Prussian dominions; no Jesuit-schools being permitted within the kingdom.

The police is under the management of a president counsellor, and his secretaries; and there are commissaries appointed for each of the twenty-two wards into which the city is divided. Capital punishments, which consist here of beheading and breaking on the wheel, are now rarely inflicted, except in cases of great enormity; but petty thefts and minor offences subject the culprits to imprisonment in the fortress of Spandau, about ten miles distant from Berlin, where they are condemned to labour for their support. There is likewise a prison for felons and debtors. As nothing tends more to the prevention of crime than the certainty of punishment, so is there hardly any thing that offers greater encouragement to it than the hope of impunity. In England, unhappily, the laws are

very inefficient in this respect, for out of the great number of criminals annually convicted, but a very small proportion actually suffer. This may, at first sight, appear to arise from the extreme lenity of our courts, yet actually, from the excessive rigour, and consequent practical weakness of our laws.* If the law passes sentence of condemnation upon ten individuals, yet only two are left for actual punishment, the inference must be, that it is partial and unjust, both towards those who suffer, and the community, who have a right to demand that the convicted criminal should pay the penalty of his offence, and not be turned loose again to commit fresh acts of violence or depredation. The laws become, too, in a considerable degree, nugatory, as punishment, after all, is at length held to be a matter of mere chance. The impolicy of such a system is obvious: the power that can pardon, ought to be able also to commute the greater punishment, if considered too heavy, into one more adequate to the offence; or if the existing laws be so absurdly rigorous as to defeat their own purpose, they

* Looking to our own country, we find that in 1826 there were in the gaol of Newgate, London, 207 females, and 2931 males, making 3138, of which 16 were executed; and last year the committals had increased 517. During eleven years, 236 suffered death at Newgate, and 8 at Execution Dock. The whole amount of offences brought before the courts through England, in 1826, was 16,147; of which 3457 belonged to London and Middlesex. The cases of burglary were 476.

cannot be amended too soon. It is a subject of great and paramount importance, and one that demands the attention of government far more than many other points that occupy our legislature.

The Prussian army has universally been held in the highest estimation for their valour and intrepidity. It is doubted, indeed, if, after our own soldiers, there can be pointed out a body of men more distinguished for order, cleanliness, and discipline. The men have a martial air, — to which their mustachoes contribute not a little, and a proud independent look, are remarkably upright in their carriage, and almost every one we saw had some order of merit.* I could not ascertain, with any degree of precision, the amount of the army, since it has been much reduced within these ten years, although it is conjectured that at present it does not exceed 150,000 men; and these cost the government about sixteen millions of dollars annually. The pay of a private is two groschens a day, and he

* The sight of a military medal always reminds me of an incident that occurred in Paris. — A British soldier, who wore one as a reward for his bravery at Waterloo, was accosted by a French grenadier, who had also that of the Legion of Honour on his breast, which is handsome, and in point of intrinsic value superior to the former. Looking at the Waterloo-man, he observed, with a kind of sneer, that it was not worth five francs. "I beg your pardon," replied the British hero; "it cost a Napoleon!"

is besides allowed lodging, bread, and three uniforms every year. There are about ten barracks in the city, some of which have been applied to other purposes, as the garrison of Berlin is not in so formidable a state as it was previous to 1806. The troops are exercised in the Opera-house, William's, Alexander's and the Domhof's Squares, also on a large open spot beyond the town, in the direction of the Brandenburg Gate.

The landwehr, who form a considerable body, are called out for drill once a year; and as no foreigners are admitted into the Prussian army, there is little apprehension of their principles being poisoned or affected, as sometimes occurs in other states. The notorious Major Semple, who once endeavoured to obtain employment in the service, addressed a letter to the King in 1790, from the hulks at Woolwich, in which he stated himself "devoted to the profession of war," though he might have said more correctly, he was an adept in swindling. He pretended to regret the disadvantages in the accoutrements of the cavalry, which he "considered the finest in the world," and resolving to ride a high horse, stated that he had invented some improvements, particularly in the form of saddles. The stratagem, however, did not succeed, nor was the following entreaty attended to:—"Have mercy upon me, Sire, and command your brave general

Mollendorf to communicate that you will suffer me to carry arms with the Prussian grenadiers, that I may find an opportunity of perishing as I ought, and seek such a grave as, in spite of my present disgrace, the service I have seen, and the dangers I have braved, give me some title to demand."

To the honour of government, the infliction of corporal punishments, so revolting to public opinion, and so degrading to any true soldier, are not inflicted in the Prussian service, but offenders are sent to what is called the Latten, a prison, the mere mention of which is calculated to strike terror into them. This is a place constructed of boards, laid with triangular pieces of wood close to each other, and ridges, similar to the joisting of a roof, which occasion a great degree of bodily pain.

The anniversary of the battle of Waterloo occurred during our stay at Berlin; but although the Prussian army took so decided a part in that memorable contest, the day was marked by no military solemnity, it being intended to keep it only every tenth year, when the King gives an entertainment to the military.

The jurisdiction of the city is vested in a chief burgomaster and twenty-four councillors, some of whom receive salaries. There are two courts, the Kammer-Gericht and the Stadt-Gericht: the former takes cognizance of all offences committed

by persons who are not burghers, the latter of those by citizens or householders. The public vehicles here, which are very numerous, are mostly in the form of barouches or cabriolets, with four wheels, not much unlike the Russian *droska*, drawn by only one horse. The drivers have a particular costume, consisting of a glazed hat, with a cockade, dark green coat, with yellow collar and cuffs; and many of them wear a green or yellow sash round their waists.

The King has an income of 1,000,000 dollars; his elder brother, Prince Henry, has 30,000; and the second, Prince William, 80,000. This discrepancy is accounted for by the former brother not being married, while the latter is united to a princess of Hesse Homburg. The Prince Royal receives 100,000, and the other princes have about 12,000 dollars each.

The revenues of the state are calculated at upwards of 40,000,000 of dollars, and are nearly equal to the expenditure. The salaries of ministers amount to 12,000 dollars; and 4000 more are allowed to defray the expences of entertainments given by them on state occasions. The quantity of British and Irish manufactures imported into Prussia in 1826, amounted to the value of 157,127*l.* The revenue of the Post-office I could not ascertain, although it is said to have augmented considerably since the appointment of the present post-master. About twenty-one

years ago, there was an attempt made to establish a penny-post; but it was abandoned, as it did not meet with sufficient encouragement. Postmen are distinguished by cocked hats, orange collars and cuffs to their coats, and the king's initials, surmounted by an eagle, on a circular plate, on their breast.

Among the various orders of merit in Prussia, may be mentioned two that are bestowed by the King on remarkable events; one denominated the Medal of Reformation, is of gold, representing on one side the Bible, and on the other effigies of Calvin and Luther; and the second is that of the Iron Cross, which is conferred on those who have distinguished themselves in military service.

The inhabitants of Berlin cannot justly be said to be addicted to intemperance, although it was formerly not uncommon to see drunken persons reeling in the streets; yet the distillers here are very numerous, and the taverns and drinking-houses amount to nearly one-fourth of the whole city. As in other continental towns, the Sabbath is far from being observed here with any great strictness; for both public and private amusements are indulged in, and the theatres are open on that evening.

If dramatic performances are permitted on this day, it would at least be desirable that they should, as far as possible, be decorous and appropriate, or rather, none but oratorios, or con-

certs of sacred music, should be allowed. It is usual to talk of the morality of the stage; yet regard it as favourably as we may, and conceding much to its advocates, it must also be granted that there is much evil to counterbalance the good. It may be admitted that there are many dramas which inculcate sound moral lessons; but this can hardly be affirmed of the majority, or of the whole of any single evening's entertainment. Granting that there be nothing exceptionable in one of the performances, there may be much that is any thing but edifying in another. Whatever, too, may be affirmed to the contrary, public audiences are not very scrupulous on points of morality; for people will endure to hear on the stage coarse double-entendres that would shock them if uttered in private society.

There are many hotels, but they are far from being distinguished for cleanliness; at least the Hôtel de Rome, in the principal part of the city, where we took up our residence, is not. Among the charges, were 3*s.* for a bed per night; servants, 2*s.*; wine, 2*s.* 6*d.* per bottle; a dining-room, 3*s.* per day; wax lights, 1*s.*; breakfast, 1*s.* 1½*d.* We were even charged 6*d.* for the spirits-of-wine burnt under the tea-kettle at the breakfast-table. There is, however, a table d'hôte, at 2*s.* a head. The porters at the hotels wear, like those at Hamburgh, a kind of official

85915

uniform, which is very showy; being a light blue coat, with a red waistcoat and blue pantaloons, and a gold-laced hat. Nor do they seem at all deficient in a sense of their own consequence, if I may judge from their important strut.

When we first arrived, the city was in a great bustle, as it was then the time of the wool fair, at which period all the inns are filled with strangers; so that we experienced some difficulty in obtaining accommodation. The wool sold here is generally shipped for England. The scene this fair displayed was a very curious one: the bags of wool were piled up literally like hills, and noblemen, with stars on their breasts, might be seen sitting in stalls, like our Lord Chancellor on his wool-pack, bargaining with customers for the packages they had sent to market, and in a manner too that an English peer would consider highly derogatory to his rank.

Among the public works, the royal foundery is particularly deserving notice. Here a great variety of articles are cast in iron in the most ingenious, nay, unrivalled manner, down to the minutest object imaginable. Many of these are small images and figures, and various articles of female dress; such as necklaces, bracelets, pins, watch-seals, broaches, small busts, &c.; in a word, a thousand beautiful ornaments, whose elegance does honour to the skill and taste of the Berlin manufacturers. There are many other

very flourishing manufactories, especially of silk, cotton, linen, and cutlery; and it should be added, that the dye so universally known under the name of "Prussian blue," is said to owe its excellence to certain properties which the water of the Spree possesses. A Prussian chemist has recently invented a new species of black pigment from hemp-seed, that will rival this colour.

A manufactory for China is established, the annual returns of which are computed at 100,000 dollars: a service, presented to the Duke of Wellington, was estimated at 80,000 dollars. There is likewise a lithographic establishment, where official orders are printed for the army; and maps, &c. executed under the superintendance of General Rühle. Among many ingenious discoveries lately made, is a process for obtaining 20 lbs. of good crystallized sugar from a Prussian bushel (about 93 lbs.) of wheat.

The quantity of British and Irish manufactures exported to this country in 1826, amounted to a considerable sum. The silks were 1215*l.*

It is almost unnecessary to advert to that hatred entertained here against the French, in consequence of the enormities they committed on entering the capital, ten days after the battle of Jena, when Bonaparte held a court in the palace, after the royal family had retired to Königsberg. The outrages of the French troops, and the in-

dignities offered by them to the inhabitants of Berlin, were doubtless not forgotten by the Prussians when they marched into Paris with the allies, and planted their standard in that city. Indeed, had it not been for the forbearance and representations of the other commanders, Blucher would certainly have pointed his cannon against its walls, and levelled the capital of France to the ground. Such is the antipathy the inhabitants of Berlin have since conceived against the French, that their language is become offensive to their ears, even in the mouths of the natives of other countries, who are unable to speak German. It is singular that no court-days are held in the capital; but this circumstance may perhaps be attributed, in a great degree, to the personal character of the present King, who is exceedingly reserved and averse to state etiquette; so that it is difficult for a stranger to get himself presented to him. It is well known how much he avoided publicity when he was in England, chiefly visiting *incog.* the places that attracted his curiosity. We were told, that if a person of rank was anxious to be presented, he must first apply to the minister, and even then might be obliged to wait months before an audience could be obtained, nay, perhaps would not be received or have his application attended to after all. One gentleman, who had applied for such an honour, after waiting nine months in

the city, left it without having accomplished his object. An anecdote is, however, related of a foreigner of rank, who, knowing the success of such application to be doubtful, conveyed to the minister information that he had a message to deliver to the King from a certain personage, which was of so important a nature that it could not be committed to writing. This had the desired effect, and he obtained an interview with His Majesty. Desirous of presenting a copy of my *Tour through the Holy Land*, &c. as I had no opportunity of doing it in person, I transmitted the volume through the British minister, Earl Clanwilliam, and was gratified at receiving a letter in the King's own hand, couched in the most polite and flattering terms; a mark of condescension for which I have to express my gratitude to His Majesty.

Before proceeding to say any thing of the immediate environs of Berlin, it may be remarked, that the finest view which can be obtained of the city is that from the summit of the Brandenburg Gate. The public walks in the environs are numerous. The first object which attracts attention is Charlottenburg, a small palace, about three miles distant, on the west side; the road to which leads from the Brandenburg Gate in one direct line, and has recesses at intervals, with seats; and on each side of this avenue are double rows of trees. Many persons were employed in

improving the road on Macadam's new plan. Approaching Charlottenburg, on each side are small tea-gardens, which are much resorted to by the citizens of Berlin; nor is the scene unlike some part of the Boulevards of Paris.

On reaching Charlottenburg, our first visit was to the tomb of the late Queen. This edifice, which is on the banks of a piece of water that glides through the gardens, and on the favourite spot where Her Majesty used to retire, is a neat and appropriate structure of the Doric order, with a portico in front; it is situate in a grotto, enveloped with weeping willows, and the whole scene is solemn and impressive. On entering it are eight marble steps, conducting to a kind of platform, ornamented with four columns, and something in the form of a chapel. The walls, which are two feet in thickness, are in imitation of marble. In the centre is a statue of the Queen in a sleeping attitude, on a couch, with her hands folded across her bosom. This figure is kept covered with a white veil, which is taken off only when it is shown to strangers. The whole is of the most exquisite sculpture, and would have done honour to the chisel of Canova; and singular enough, the effigy was executed in Rome by a person who at one time was valet de chambre to the King. A Grecian lamp is suspended from the ceiling of this chapel, and behind the head of the statue is a large window,

formed by a single sheet of glass, the light from which falling on the figure, produces a very fine effect. Beneath this sepulchral temple is the tomb itself, the door of which is locked, and the key always kept by the King in his own pocket. Some assert that Her Majesty's death was occasioned by the acts of tyranny, injustice, and oppression that had been exercised by Bonaparte towards Prussia; others attribute it to her having caught cold at a ball. The latter perhaps might be the immediate cause of her dissolution; but no doubt can be entertained, considering the extreme sensibility of Her Majesty, that her constitution had already suffered, and the former must be considered as the primary cause. A remarkable expression uttered by her when on the eve of dissolution gives countenance to this: —"Although the page of history may not proclaim me among the class of distinguished females, yet it will mark my misfortunes, and acknowledge that they were borne with fortitude and patience."*

The King, who was long a widower, was married November 27, 1824, at this palace, to the Princess of Liegnitz, à la main gauche; that is to say, she is precluded from aspiring to the throne, or to the title of queen. This act received the special consent of the Crown Prince, and was

* This distinguished personage died July 19. 1810, in her thirty-fourth year.

formally announced by a public ordonnance, signed by the King and his ministers.* The

* « *Nous Frédéric-Guillaume, par la grâce de Dieu, Roi de Prusse, etc.*

« Lorsque, d'après les décrets impénétrables de la Providence, S. M. la Reine Louise, notre épouse chérie et bien-aimée, nous fut enlevée, le 19 juillet 1810, par une mort précoce, le Ciel avait béni notre union royale en nous accordant une nombreuse descendance, et la succession au trône se trouvant par-là aussi assurée qu'on pouvait humainement l'espérer, nous avons hésité à contracter un second mariage royal.

« Cependant comme la princesse la plus jeune de nos filles est maintenant sur le point de se marier, et que la séparation d'avec toutes les princesses, nos filles chéries, nous prive, aux approches de la vieillesse, de société domestique, nous avons, d'après le conseil de personnes qui nous sont étroitement unies par les liens du sang et de l'amitié, et surtout après nous être assuré de l'assentiment sincère de S. A. le Prince Royal, et de tous nos autres enfans qui se trouvent ici, pris la résolution de procéder à un second mariage, et de choisir pour notre future épouse, avec le consentement de ses parens, la comtesse Auguste d'Harrach, à cause de ses précieuses et estimables qualités.

« Nous l'avons nommée aujourd'hui princesse de Liegnitz et comtesse de Hohenzollern, et nous voulons que ce mariage soit, d'après les lois de notre maison royale, considéré pour le présent et pour l'avenir comme un mariage *Morganatique*. En conséquence, nous réglons par les présentes, que, dans le cas où le Ciel nous accorderait des enfans, ceux-ci et leurs descendans portent le nom et le titre de princes et princesses de Liegnitz, comtes et comtesses de Hohenzollern, et prennent les armoiries concédées à notre épouse la princesse de Liegnitz.

gardens of Charlottenburg are neither extensive nor possess any great pretensions to beauty;

" Les princes et princesses de Liegnitz, comtes et comtesses de Hohenzollern, ainsi que leurs descendans, sont et demeurent exclus de toute succession en terres et sujets, et de tous droits d'héritage ou autres, dont jouissent les princes et princesses de la famille royale, et ils doivent être regardés comme entièrement apanagés par les dispositions que nous avons réglées aussi aujourd'hui dans un acte particulier, signé à notre demande par notre cher fils le Prince Royal, et dans lequel nous avons fixé les épingles et le douaire de notre épouse la princesse de Liegnitz.

" Nous avons fait connaître ces dispositions par nous réglées, à notre épouse la princesse de Liegnitz et à ses parens, et nous nous sommes assuré de leur consentement, qu'ils ont déclaré vis-à-vis de nous par un acte spécial qu'ils ont dressé.

" Notre mariage avec la princesse de Liegnitz, ayant été célébré aujourd'hui, et béni dans la chapelle du château de Charlottenbourg par l'évêque évangélique le docteur d'Eylert, en présence de notre fils chéri S. A. le Prince Royal, et de S. A. R. le grand duc de Mecklenbourg Strelitz, des parens de la princesse, et de quelques-uns de nos fonctionnaires d'état, nous déclarons la princesse de Liegnitz comtesse de Hohenzollern notre légitime épouse.

" Nous avons fait dresser le présent acte sur tout ce qui précède, et nous l'avons signé en y faisant apposer notre grand sceau royal.

" Fait et donné à Berlin, le neuvième jour du mois de Novembre, l'an de J. C. notre Seigneur mil-huit-cent-vingt-quatre, et de notre règne le vingt-septième.

" FRÉDÉRIC GUILLAUME.

" *Baron d'Altenstein, De Kirchcisen, comte de Bulow, De Schuckmann, Le prince de Witgenstein, Le comte de Lottum, De Klowitz, De Hake.*"

the soil, too, is sandy, and unfavourable to vegetation, and the grass destitute of that luxuriant verdure so grateful to the eye. They are, however, neatly laid out; but the railing of the bridges, of which there are here several, in various parts, is much out of repair, and very rusty, nor does it appear to have been, at any time, painted. Visitors are not permitted to enter with either sticks or umbrellas, but must leave them at the gate. This must, to those who are accustomed to walk with a cane, be a very irksome regulation. The palace itself is an antiquated structure, with a kind of belfry on its summit, surmounted by a figure standing on a globe. Although inhabited by royalty, it has nothing noble in its appearance, or rather seems almost deserted; for the grass is suffered to spring up between the stones of the paved area in front. This may, perhaps, not shock the eye of a native; but one accustomed to the neatness and *élégance recherchée* of every part of an English villa, cannot fail to be struck by such slovenliness.

On returning to the city, we quitted the great road, and passed the palace of Bellevue, a neat building pleasantly situate on the banks of the Spree, where the number of vessels imparts an air of bustle and activity to the scene, and the view is not unlike that of the Thames about Oxford. There are six powder-magazines on

the other side of the river, with iron rods fixed to upright poles to attract the electric fluid. Contiguous to them are a number of pleasant villas belonging to the inhabitants of Berlin, situated on the banks, and enveloped in trees. These have a picturesque appearance, particularly one belonging to M. Behrends, the banker, which has beautiful gardens, and a number of ornamental temples. The next object in the environs is a handsome monument erected about two years ago from the designs of M. Schinkel, on the summit of a hill of considerable height, about a mile from the city. This structure, which is formed of iron, and is of considerable elevation, is intended to hand down the memory of those heroes who fell in battle, in the war of the allies against France. It is fenced with a railing, and a flight of five steps leads to a platform or terrace twenty-two feet square, in the centre of which stands the monument, which has the character of a Gothic spire, surmounted by a cross. There are various niches, ornamented with figures, holding swords and laurels in their hands. The following are the dates of the battles here recorded: —

Gross Goerschen	May 13. 1813.
Gross Beeren	August 23. 1813.
Katzbach	August 26. 1813.
Culm	August 30. 1813.
Dannewitz	September 6. 1813.

Wartenburg - -	October 3. 1813.
Leipsic - - -	October 18. 1813.
Rothiere - - -	February 1. 1814.
Bar-sur-Aube - -	February 27. 1814.
Laon - - -	March 9. 1814.
Paris - - - -	March 20. 1814.
Belle Alliance - -	June 18. 1815.

The names of the more remarkable actions are in italics, and gilded. In one niche it was intended to place the effigy of Blucher. There is an inscription in German, mentioning that the King erected this structure for "the blood of his subjects shed in battle."

About five miles from this place is the village of Gross Beeren, where a sanguinary engagement took place between the Prussians and French, which extended to this spot. The eminence on which the monument stands commands a beautiful prospect of Berlin. It is impossible to leave this subject without recollecting the extraordinary and unaccountable fact, that it has never entered into the contemplation of the Prussian government to erect a monument to Kutusov.

It may be worth remarking, that besides the Orders of the Black and Red Eagle, of St. John, and of the Iron Cross, there is a female Order, that of Louisa, which is conferred on ladies who have distinguished themselves in their attention to the distressed.

The Bible Society here has distributed about two hundred thousand copies of the Scriptures; and, by a proclamation of December 9th, 1825, His Majesty commanded, that an annual collection should be made in all the Protestant churches of the kingdom, to promote the further circulation of the sacred volume.

This imperfect account of the Prussian capital cannot be concluded without adverting to the hospitality, politeness, and urbanity, we experienced from Earl Clanwilliam, who so deservedly holds the situation of representative of Great Britain.

CHAP. IV.

Departure. — Roads. — Villages, &c. — Freienwalde. — Royal château and gardens. — Zechder. — The Oder. — Prospects. — Königsberg. — Lake. — Husbandry. — Behn. — Pyritz. — Conflagration. — Lake. — Stargard. — Lake. — Nassau. — Naugard. — Plathe. — Riga river. — Château. — Peasantry. — Corlin. — River Perante. — Cöslin. — Statue of Frederick William. — Supreme Tribunal. — View of Baltic. — Schlawe. — Stolpe. — Launberg. — Gottingen. — Neustadt. — Cloister. — Katz. — Prospect of Dantzic. — Hotel.

On the 4th of June we departed from Berlin, having first given a military appearance to my costume, by attaching a red collar to my blue surtout, as I had been informed that far more attention is shown to strangers in the Russian territories, and less delay experienced in obtaining fresh post-horses, if so equipped, than when they travel in a plain costume. I trust, therefore, that this little *ruse de guerre* on my part will be deemed excusable, although it was certainly travelling under false colours; and as I also wore an order presented to me by the late King of France, I might certainly, *en passant*, be taken for a military man. I did not, however, describe myself as such in my passports, as that would have been assuming too much; though

as Gibbet says in the play, "Captain is a good travelling name, for it stops a great many foolish enquiries that are generally made about gentlemen who travel, and it gives a man an air of something, and makes the drivers obedient; so that thus far I am a captain, and no further."

On leaving the city the postilion sounded a French horn that was hung over his shoulder. We passed along an alley planted on each side with poplars; and having proceeded about three miles, came within view of a lake. The road, which workmen were then employed in macadamizing, was good, and formed a striking contrast to the sandy tract we had travelled across on the other side of the city. The country, too, was pleasant, but rather woody; and we passed several villages, the spires of whose churches formed prominent objects in the landscape. The farm-houses resembled those we had seen on the route from Hamburgh, and many of them had ovens for baking bread, situate at some distance from them. The ploughs we saw, were drawn by three oxen, and were of exceedingly rude construction. The crops were principally rye and potatoes; the flocks of geese numerous; and in a wood we passed through, were several wild deer. Stones of a very large size were still to be seen scattered over many of the fields, and had the appearance of having been cast up from the crater of a volcano; some of them might, at a little

distance, be actually mistaken for sheep, both from their colour and form. The road afterwards struck through a wood of pine and then of beech, where the trees, planted on each side, were fenced by large stones to protect them from the wheels of carriages. There were recesses in several parts of the road, with seats cut out for the accommodation of the weary pedestrian. This, and the many other woods we had travelled through, repeatedly brought to mind the beautiful remark of the poet, that —

> " There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
> There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
> There is a society where none intrudes,
> By the deep sea, and music in its roar.
> I love not man the less, but nature more
> From these our interviews; in which I steal
> From all I may be, or have been before,
> To mingle with the universe, and feel
> What I can ne'er express, yet can not all conceal."

On leaving this wood, the country became hilly, and shortly afterwards a most beautiful prospect of an extensive landscape burst upon the eye. At Freienwalde is a royal château on the side of the road, with gardens adjoining, which is visited by His Majesty twice a-year. There are baths about three miles from the town. The rose trees here, in front of many of the houses, were twenty-five feet in height, and had a profusion of beautiful flowers. We shortly after passed a large mea-

dow, where we observed the mode of piling hay to preserve it during the time of inundation: this is done by erecting a platform six feet in height, laid on upright stakes of wood, in the centre of which is a high pole, the hay being raised to within thirteen feet at top of it. These platforms may amount, perhaps, to a thousand; they have a very singular appearance, and resemble, at a distance, so many bee-hives. The country, in this direction, is extremely picturesque, owing to the windings of the river. Zechder, where we next changed horses, is situated on an elevation having a beautiful view of the windings of the Oder beneath it, and of the vessels that are constantly passing and repassing, whose white swelling sails form a beautiful contrast to the foliage through which they are seen gliding. On resuming our journey we crossed a naked country, until, on descending a valley, the scene suddenly changed, and we had a view of Lake Mantel, whose sides were richly adorned with dark woods. We passed a village near its banks, totally obscured by trees, with two venerable churches and ivy-mantled towers. This is a most romantic situation; and it was heightened by the tranquillity of the evening, the smoke ascending from the cottages, the peasants returning from the labours of the field, and by occasional glimpses of the lake through the trees, while the whole scene was gilded by the

setting of a glorious sun reflected on the bosom of the glassy waters.

> This is the poet's, this the painter's hour,
> The tranquil hour of beauty and of peace,
> When scenes of visioned bliss arrest the eye,
> And clouds themselves, like creatures of the air,
> And pleasure's heralds, don their glorious suits.
> For now the sinking monarch of the skies
> Bathes him in streams of radiance: floating gold,
> With purple veined in many a sportive shape,
> Pavilion round his throne; while the glad earth,
> Spectator of his glory, hails her lord,
> Exulting in the lustre of his face.
> Man, too, rejoicing in the view divine,
> His bosom feels with softened rapture filled,
> And reads the prophecy of future bliss
> Inscribed in the skies.

The road ran upon a line of this sheet of water; and after leaving it, entered a wood, where it became as bad as that we had travelled between Hamburgh and Berlin.

At eight o'clock we reached Königsberg; and after stopping here for the night, we resumed our journey the next morning at an early hour. The road itself was sandy, but otherwise pleasing, venerable lime and oak trees being planted on each side of it. The gardens in the villages, which were cultivated with hops, were fenced with high strong boards. All the

houses had remarkable high roofs of thatch. After passing a sheet of water called Lake Tua, the road pursues its course for a long way between large lime trees, forming a noble avenue. The scenery around was beautiful, the grounds highly cultivated, bearing all the marks of good husbandry and fertility, and there was some of the richest clover we had seen. At the end of the lake is the small town of Behn.

Three more hours' journey brought us to Pyritz, a place consisting of one principal street, and having about 4,000 inhabitants; it is walled round, and has ancient towers, and a moat, now nearly choked up. About two years ago, a dreadful conflragration occurred, when fifty houses and magazines fell a sacrifice to the devouring element. The dress of the lower orders of females here is singularly clumsy and grotesque, being a jacket of blue cloth, with a row of a great many buttons in front; and coarse drugget petticoats, plaited and bunched out at the hips, like those of the Flemish and Dutch women. This costume, which has as little of taste to recommend it as can well be imagined, is certainly not rendered more attractive by the extreme shortness of the lower garments; and as these ladies wear neither shoes nor stockings, the very liberal display of their persons does not prepossess a stranger greatly in favour of their de-

licacy, especially as the limbs thus exposed, cannot be compared, even by the most violent poetical catachresis, either to ivory or snow.

A short way beyond this place appeared Lake Madie, which is three miles in length, and forms a junction with the Oder, having a village in front of it called Verben. Hitherto the soil had been sandy, but now it assumed a black appearance, and in some parts the peasants were occupied in cutting turf for winter fuel. Great quantities of manure were lying by the side of the road. The next place we came to was Stargard, a town taken by the Russians in 1758. The population is about 7200; and there are four churches, of which the principal one, built in the Gothic style, is like a cathedral, and attracts attention from its antiquity and its lofty towers. We looked into it, and found it had just been repaired: over the altar is a painting of the Nativity, and others of the twelve Apostles, six on each side, in neat carved niches. There was a fine organ; and on the walls were hung portraits of Luther, and other ecclesiastics who contended for the establishment of the Protestant faith in opposition to the doctrines of Popery. Festoons of green leaves had been suspended between the pillars, on occasion of some religious ceremony which had lately taken place.

After waiting an hour for horses, we again

proceeded; but nothing interesting presented itself during this stage. Beyond Lake Lenzhese, was a miserable tract, with a deal of waste land. At six o'clock we arrived at Massou, pleasantly situate on a height upon the river Varshese. It is surrounded by ancient walls of bricks, with watch towers and gates. We afterwards proceeded along the banks of the river, which were extremely picturesque, and covered with a profusion of corn. This night we reached Naugard, having travelled altogether sixty-five English miles in the course of the day. This town has a church in the Gothic style, where, when the French occupied it, in 1808, they discovered three nunneries. There is a soldier's guard here, a military force being indispensable, as there is a prison for felons, similar in appearance to a fortress. At this time there were 400 criminals, some of whom were working in the fields, and all were distinguished by a particular dress, the one-half of which is of a yellow and the other of a grey colour. One malefactor having recently attacked a domestic and stabbed him to the heart, had been condemned to death, and his head was struck off with a hatchet, outside of one of the gates.

Next morning we resumed our route, and passed through Plathe, where we changed horses, a small town situate on a river, and surrounded by gardens. At the entrance to it

is an ancient château, which exhibits the ravages of time. We crossed a bridge below the town, where the banks of the river are clothed with wood; and making some observations on its insecure state, were informed that the preceding winter, while two of our countrymen were crossing it in a carriage, it broke down in the centre, and the horses perished. We proceeded along an extensive heath, with a small lake in view, where the peasantry were employed in improving the waste lands. Corlin was the next place where we stopped: this town, which is pleasantly situate on the river Persante, has about 1300 inhabitants, and is a place of some trade, having several woollen manufactures. The mills, too, for grinding corn and cutting wood, give it an air of industry and labour. The river abounds with salmon. We were again annoyed by the delay experienced in changing horses; and would advise those who travel in this country, to provide themselves with a considerable stock of patience, as they will find ample occasion for the exercise of it, particularly if they have been accustomed to English postilions, and to the dispatch used by them in changing horses. Some excuse, however, may be reasonably made for the want of dexterity in this respect, which is so apt to call forth the animadversion of my countrymen, — viz. the extreme rarity of travellers, and the consequent

want of practice in, and encouragement to, those who attend upon them. In the course of the whole of this day's journey we did not meet with a single traveller of any description. That part of the country we were now in, was elevated, and at no great distance from the sea. We passed a lake on which the sun sparkled with remarkable brilliancy; and the dazzling light was beautifully contrasted by a village on its banks, with a spire shooting up from amid trees which formed a broad mass of shade. It was sunset when we arrived at Cöslin, whose well-paved streets, and neat houses, gave it an air of elegance we had met with no where since quitting the capital. There is a spacious square here, surrounded with buildings erected on a regular plan; and in the centre of it is placed a statue of Frederick William, as a grateful memorial on the part of the inhabitants for the liberality with which that Prince assisted them in re-building the greater part of the town, after it had been destroyed by fire. On each side of the pedestal is a Latin inscription, and various allegorical and emblematical figures; and the whole is surrounded with an iron railing, having a military trophy at each corner. There are two brick churches, both in the Gothic style, which have a very antiquated and grotesque appearance within, many of the seats being similar to cages, with

singular railings. Portraits of Luther and other celebrated fathers of the Protestant church, in the sixteenth century, decorate the walls. Judging from the enormous size of the poor-box placed in the centre of the church, it should seem that the contributions in behalf of the indigent must be exceedingly liberal. It resembles a huge trunk, five feet in length by three in breath, arched at top, with an aperture, and bound round with iron. Over the altar is a full-length effigy of Christ extended on the cross, with the two thieves; at the back of which is a large shrine, with representations of religious characters curiously carved in wood, and painted; which must have been erected at the period of Catholicism. The town contains 6000 inhabitants, and the supreme tribunal of the country is held here.

On changing horses, we ascended a very high hill beyond the town, from the summit of which there is a fine prospect, both of the town itself, and the Baltic Sea. During this stage, we had a pleasant drive through a woody country, where the villages were enclosed with trees, and the crops looked vigorous. We now arrived at Schlawe, a small walled town, situate in an extensive plain on the banks of a small river. Over the gate is a high tower of four stories. A number of gardens and large bleaching grounds surround the place.

After changing horses, we traversed for some way a country covered with wood, till, on a sudden, it changed to barren heath, where yellow broom, and many wild flowers, were wasting their sweets on the desert air. On the sides of the road many of the trees were the very images of winter, their leaves having been totally devoured by the maikafer, an insect the size of a beetle, and, I believe, known in England under the name of cockchaffer: it subsists on the leaves of trees; but avoids those of the lime. As it often strikes against objects when flying, it is presumed to be blind; and this has occasioned the proverb "As blind as a beetle." Their ravages are often equal to those of locusts, and in their flight they have been known to darken the air. They commit great destruction here; and on shaking a tree, thousands of them drop off.

We arrived at nine o'clock at Stolpe, a pretty large town, with a castle and ramparts; and put up at the cleanest inn we had seen in Prussia; but soon set out again, and, travelling all night, reached Launberg at four o'clock. The morning was exceedingly fine, but the thermometer stood so low as 45°. Some parts of the farms were enclosed with fences, which we had not before seen. The great diversity of scenery which occurs in the course of a few miles, is very remarkable: in one place, a rich country, with luxuriant crops, will appear; this is succeeded

by one totally covered with wood; and again, by a third of barren sandy heath. After passing Gottingen the country became highly picturesque; for, on each side, was a chain of high hills, stretching as far as the eye could reach, and covered to the top with wood. These green ramparts of foliage, the luxuriant crops, and villages enclosed with trees, formed altogether the finest scenery we had seen in this country. We were also agreeably surprised to find that the toilsome sandy tract was passed, and that we were now on a substantial line of road, covered with gravel, and adorned with trees at measured distances; nor is a better road to be found in England.

Neustadt, where we next arrived, is a small town, having about 900 inhabitants; and one square, with a cistern in the centre, surrounded with trees. There are two churches, one of them belonging to the Roman Catholics, which has also a cloister, with seven monks of the Franciscan order, and a school for instruction in the principles of the Catholic faith. There are in this church full-length portraits of several Franciscans, and before it a high cross, with the effigy of our Saviour. A number of Catholics reside in this place; and an opulent individual, named Vaier, has, in his enthusiasm for the propagation of their doctrines, erected a number of chapels in different parts of the country, which

are similar to those in Catholic countries for religious devotion. In a village called Lessen, some robbers broke into the church, and carried off all the plate. The thermometer, at twelve o'clock, was at 76°, the greatest degree of heat we had experienced this summer.

During our next stage the beautiful chain of hills still continued, till, after we had proceeded a short way, the mighty Baltic presented itself; and we came to Katz, a large post-house romantically situate on an elevation, surrounded with trees. After this a delightful view of an extensive bay suddenly burst upon us, with a prospect of Dantzic, and numerous vessels at anchor, forming a scene resembling the line of coast from Leith to Berwick. We passed several villas and cottages on the brow of the hills, and along each side of the road met many of the Dantzickers driving from town in their "Stuhlwagens," with their families, and smoking their pipes in Turkish luxury. On approaching the town we passed along an avenue, with a double row of lime trees, not unlike the approach to Berlin by the Brandenburg Gate; and selected for our quarters the "Deutsche Hotel," which is reckoned the best in the city.

CHAP. V.

Dantzic. — General remarks. — Cathedral. — "Last Judgment," by Van Eyck. — Public buildings, &c. — Criminals. — Jews. — Poles. — Fahrenheit. — Fortifications. — River and canal. — Imports and exports.

THE Gedanum of the ancients, now Dantzic, the capital of West Prussia, is situate on the west branch of the Vistula, near its entrance into the Baltic, and is considered one of the richest cities in the Prussian dominions. The town is extensive, is encompassed with fortifications and moats, and has a good harbour. Both its strength and commercial importance, which latter may be dated from as far back as the year 997, render it a place of considerable note. Anciently it ranked as the principal of the Hanse Towns, and was under the protection of Poland; but in 1793 resigned itself to Prussia. In 1807, after a siege of four months, it was taken by the French, who demanded contributions to the extent of about 16,000,000 of franks; by the treaty of Tilsit, however, it was restored to its former independence, under the protection of Prussia and Saxony. In 1812 it was again besieged by the Allies, when, after a brave defence, it surrendered

to them, Jan. 1. 1814, and once more reverted to Prussia.

There are not so many objects of interest as might be supposed in a city of this extent, and one whose population is estimated at 60,000. The general physiognomy of the buildings, however, is very striking; having an air of antiquity beyond that of almost any place we had before visited. The houses, which are built of brick, are narrow in front, are from five to six stories in height, and exhibit great diversity of form. Most of them are full of windows, and ornamented with various devices and fantastical effigies. The streets are narrow, and there are no foot-pavements, as the space is completely occupied by enormous projections and antiquated stairs in front of the houses. Some of them have massive iron railings, with brass ornaments, and others are altogether of stone, with grotesque figures of lions, eagles, and fish, and enormous balls. Beneath these projections are booths, and in front of the houses are large wells. We may presume that these singular constructions are considered beautiful; for they have certainly neither convenience nor any other advantage to recommend them, or rather, are positive incumbrances and nuisances; yet an artist might consider them picturesque. The shops or warehouses for ready-made coffins, with inscriptions over them, struck us as being peculiar to this place, and seemed to

indicate some extraordinary mortality. The city has four gates, having a centre arch for carriages, and one on each side for pedestrians. Most of the shops are curiously constructed: on each side of the entrances is a window, exhibiting the articles for sale, but the shop itself is quite at the rear of the building, and one has to pass through a long vestibule before he reaches it. There are eighteen churches; twelve of the Lutheran, and six of the Catholic persuasion. The chief of these is the cathedral, which is a large Gothic structure, supported in the interior by thirty-four columns. This church contains an object of great interest to the connoisseur, namely, the celebrated *Danziger Bild*, or Last Judgment, by John Van Eyck. Some doubts as to its being really the performance of that artist have been entertained; but the reasons adduced against the prevalent opinion are not very satisfactory, and Mad. Schoppenhaner, in her life of Van Eyck, attributes it to him without hesitation. As a minute description of this extraordinary work may be acceptable to the reader, I shall avail myself of her words: — "The painting consists of a centre compartment, and two lesser ones, forming folds or shutters to enclose it. Upon a splendid rainbow, reaching nearly to the lower verge of the picture, the Saviour is seen enthroned in glory, and seated in the awful character of Judge, having on one side a fiery

sword, on the other a lily; while a golden globe, hovering in the air, serves him for a footstool. He is arrayed in a red mantle, fastened at the breast with a rich clasp, and falling back in picturesque folds, so as to discover his naked body. Above him hover four angels, in coloured garments, holding the emblems of his passion; while close behind the rainbow are seated the twelve apostles, six on each side; and at the extremity of the semicircle thus formed, on the right-hand, is seen the Virgin, kneeling in an attitude of adoration. She is clothed in a mantle of a dark green hue, and has a glory of rays round her head. Her countenance is finely expressive of maternal love and interceding pity. Opposite to her, at the other extremity of the range of apostles, is John the Baptist, who has likewise a glory round his head, and who is attired with a garment of fine skins, over which is a green mantle lined with red. The hands of these figures are rather thin, but most exquisitely finished, and have all the warmth of life. Below this group are beheld three angels, sounding the trumpet that wakes a guilty world to judgment. All the preceding figures are in the air. Upon the earth a different scene presents itself:—in the centre stands the towering form of the archangel Michael, with his back towards the spectator, and clad in golden armour, that, like the globe on which the feet of the Saviour rest, reflects the

surrounding objects. His wings are formed of radiant peacock's feathers, while a large scarlet mantle, embroidered with golden flowers, lined with purple, and adorned with a border of pearls and precious stones, hangs from his shoulders, and is so disposed as to display his armour. A small fillet, having in front a cross of jewels, binds his majestic brows, and the golden curls that surround them. Aloft, in his right hand, he holds a long black rod, the upper extremity of which is a richly-jewelled cross; in his left, he bears the awful scales of Divine Justice. In the right bowl of the scales is a just spirit; in the other, which is poised on high, is the soul of one who is found wanting in righteousness—and the attitude of the wretch, whom a demon has already seized by the hair, denotes the utmost horror. It is impossible to conceive any thing more imposing, more noble, more full of dignity, than the figure of the archangel himself, or than the expression of his countenance. Yet in this and some other heads, a critical eye may detect, through the thin coat of colour, the marks of the first outline in black-lead; indicating that in the progress of his work the artist had deviated from his first idea. The groups of those who have already risen from their graves, or are in the act of awakening from the sleep of death, are too various to be described. Both in the foreground and distance, figures are seen rising from the

earth, with countenances indicating a consciousness of their approaching doom, whether of bliss of misery. On one grave-stone is the date CCCLXVII.; but this, as well as the head of the figure in the right scale, and that of one of the three angels with the trumpet, appears to have been painted by a later hand. Immediately behind the archangel, an angel and a devil are contending for the possession of a soul. The condemned souls, on the left-hand of Michael, express horror, anguish, and despair bordering on madness, and exhibit various groups, of every age, and of both sexes. Fantastic demon shapes, several of which have butterfly-wings, mingle among the damned, and are seen driving them to the abyss, with the most satanic joy:—not even Dante's powerful fancy could invent any thing more wildly terrific. The scene on the right is a perfect contrast to the preceding: here all is rapture and ecstasy; but in some of the female heads the expression of joy appears to be rather too infantine. Amidst these groups, a negro forms a prominent object; while on the opposite side—where, by the by, there is no want of heads with the monkish tonsure—is shown, by way of contrast to this baptized negro, a virtuous heathen, who although not absolutely condemned to the tortures of hell, is yet, according to the doctrines of the Catholic church, considered as incapable of partaking of the bliss

of the redeemed: — the countenance exhibits deep sorrow, yet neither fear nor pain.

"A painting on the left of the two doors to the picture, displays the region of torture, where, amid horrid gloomy rocks and flames, are beheld the damned, abandoned to the most dreadful despair; while demons, of the most loathsome and hideous forms, are precipitating them from the crags into the flaming, smoking abyss. They are hurled over each other in every direction, and some are seen climbing up again in wild despair, to be once more dashed into the terrific gulf.

"It is impossible to gaze on this appalling scene without awe; it is equally impossible not to admire the great variety of attitudes, the wonderful foreshortening, and the different expressions of despair the artist has here shown.

"The painting on the opposite door represents the Christian Paradise, into which the souls of the redeemed are seen entering, through a rich Gothic portal, into heaven. Here every countenance beams with celestial joy, and with a foretaste of the bliss that awaits them. In this picture the heads appear to be portraits, and are finished with all the delicacy of miniatures."

There is likewise in this church an enormous baptismal font of brass, made at Antwerp, and surmounted with a railing which cost 24,000 dollars. Various flags are displayed here, and there are portraits of several burgomasters. Among the

numerous monuments, the most striking is one erected to the memory of General Sinclair, a Scotchman, with a long inscription explanatory of his fortitude and intrepidity. On the pedestal is a view of Dantzic; and the general is beheld marching at the head of a body of troops to storm it. During a bombardment in 1557, great damage was occasioned to this church, and some of the balls that fell, demolished many of the grave-stones. During their possession of the town, the French committed great ravages on this church.

The exchange, which is an antique building, situate in the Lange Strasse, or principal street, is eighty-six feet in length, and fifty-eight in breadth. In the centre is a statue of Augustus III. of Poland: the figure, which is of white marble, is attired in a mantle, and holds a baton in the right, and a sword in the left hand. The walls of this building are covered with antique paintings, chiefly scriptural subjects, and from the roof are suspended the models of four vessels. Notwithstanding the accommodation this large hall is calculated to afford, the merchants generally assemble in the street before it, as in the Scottish capital.

The town-house is a large building, with a door of iron. There are two principal apartments: in that where justice is administered, the roof is richly gilded, and ancient paintings adorn

the walls, besides portraits of the last and present King of Prussia: the seats and the bar are covered with red velvet. The second room is appropriated to civic entertainments.

The theatre is a neat building of brick, covered with white plaster, having a portico of four columns in front, and a roof similar to that of the Pantheon at Rome. The bills we observed stuck up, announced a performance called "Adam and Eve."

Among the charitable institutions is an almshouse, orphan hospital, and general hospital, containing accommodation for lunatics, and one for the military.

Criminals condemned to slavery, are seen going to and returning from work, under a military guard. They are distinguished by a particular dress, one-half of which, from the neck to the knee, is yellow, and the other black. They are chained by the neck, and the most atrocious are distinguished by a cross iron worn on the neck. Such a mode of punishment, even for the very worst of criminals (excepting those guilty of murder) is most certainly humane, and cannot fail to be attended with most beneficial effects. It affords the criminal proper time for repentance and making up his peace with God, while society derives benefit from his manual labour. But having already made some remarks on the efficacy of solitary confinement, I shall

merely add, that it is most devoutly to be wished it were generally substituted in England for capital punishment.

No one can visit this city without being struck with the vast number of that excommunicated race, the Jews, as to whom the Divine prediction has been so signally accomplished. They absolutely swarm here, and come forth in clusters at the hour when the exchange opens. Their dress has something very peculiar; for they wear broad hats, larger than those of Quakers, long black gowns, tied round the waist with a sash, and have long beards; and their chattering on the exchange was quite deafening.

It is impossible, however, to touch upon this class of our fellow-creatures, without offering some observations of a serious nature. Singular as they appear in our eye, they unquestionably have some claim to our attention. Although many ages have elapsed, during which they have been "without a king, a prince, and a sacrifice," and notwithstanding they have always been a scattered race, "dispersed in the countries," yet they continue, as originally, a separate body, different from all people. Their fall and degraded state, affords the most powerful confirmation of the truth of Revelation, being a visible punishment for their rejection of the Saviour.*

* In Poland, their number is calculated at 232,000.

Here, too, the stranger's curiosity is attracted by the crowds of natives of Poland, who resort to this city. Of the wretchedness and squalidity of this class of people, it is almost impossible to form an adequate idea. Some of them actually appeared to resemble those Arabs I had seen at Jericho, being almost in a state of nudity, and others would have made excellent scarecrows. Their dress is a coarse shirt, reaching almost to the heels, and so filthy as to be quite disgusting; brown coats of the roughest texture, rags of stockings, and skins tied round their feet with cord, complete their uncouth attire. Their countenances are of a copper colour, and they wear long hair, and round rough caps. From the similarity in point of dress, it was often extremely difficult to distinguish the men from the women; and so far are the latter from being entitled to the epithet "fair," that they may, from their filthiness, be denominated the "*foul*" sex; their children, too, are almost naked, and completely of a tanned colour. The native females of Dantzic, however, are the most beautiful of any we had seen; yet, to judge from appearances, little can be said in favour of their virtue, for we never before witnessed so many instances of frailty, or so many female servants at the hotels in a state of pregnancy, as here.

Fahrenheit, the great improver of the thermometer, was a merchant here. Being unfortunate

in business, he had recourse to making and selling those instruments. He discovered that cold more intense than ice, might be found by a mixture of snow and salt; and apprehending this to be extreme cold, commenced his scale from that point, which is 32° below freezing water.

By the civility of the governor, we obtained an order to visit the fortifications, which are situate on an eminence that surrounds the city. Here the operations carried on by the French, have been as extensive as they are formidable, particularly in cutting out long subterraneous passages. There are 1500 cannon locked up, but not a single gun is mounted. It is extraordinary, that although the approach to these fortifications leads directly from the great road, and is at such a short distance from the port of the city, yet there is neither gate nor barrier to prevent intrusion. From this elevation, a fine prospect is presented of the windings of the river and sea; and from this point we counted 100 spires in the town. On the French taking possession of Berlin, the King and his court retired to this place. Three thousand buildings were damaged, and the whole suburbs burned to ashes, under Marshal Lefebre, which loss was estimated at one million sterling. A British consul is established here.

Having viewed the town, we proceeded to the mouth of the Vistula, which passes Dantzic, and

loses itself in the sea, about five miles distant from it. The water is from fifteen to twenty feet in depth, and not quite so broad as the Thames. A packet sails sixteen times a-day from the mouth of it to Dantzic, and the fare of each passenger is three-pence. When the wind is contrary, the vessel is towed by a horse through a canal which branches from the river. There is a fortress where centinels are stationed, and also a prison, with two light-houses, and a powder magazine. Twenty years ago vessels entered the river, and proceeded directly to Dantzic; but this has been found impracticable, from the quantity of sand thrown up; in consequence of which a cut has been made, communicating with the sea, about a mile to the west, twenty feet in breadth, by which they now enter. At the mouth of this canal are gates and locks, which are secured at night. There were here a number of vessels of different nations, especially Dutch. At the extremity of the canal where the land ends, is a prodigiously long pier built on piles, similar to that at Calais, which projects some distance into the sea: — from this spot the view of the coast is very pleasant. On the beach are bathing-houses, and a life-boat is also kept here, which was built in England. The neighbourhood of this town was lately visited with swarms of locusts, which devoured every thing

green*, and all attempts to destroy them were unsuccessful. This fact is the more curious, as these destructive insects rarely travel so far north.

Before concluding, it may be proper to observe, with regard to the state of trade in Prussia, that the following are the imports and exports during three years, including this port and the duchy of Pomerania: —

	IMPORT.	EXPORT.
1821 - -	£329,551 - -	£915,930
1822 - -	490,513 - -	747,184
1823 - -	504,140 - -	634,074

The following is a comparative statement of the prices of grain in Dantzic and England: —

DANTZIC.	ENGLAND.
Price of the finest wheat purchased in Dantzic, put free on board, and Sound dues paid, 26*s.* 6*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.*	The same wheat in England, after being here two years, is sold for 56*s.* to 72*s.*
Barley, free on board, and Sound dues paid, 11*s.* 5*d.*	The same barley, 34*s.* to 46*s.*
Oats, free on board, and Sound dues paid, 8*s.* 9*d.*	The same oats, 26*s.* to 33*s.*
Peas, free on board, and Sound dues paid, 15*s.* 6*d.*	The same peas, 50*s.* to 68*s.*

* Joel i. 17, 18.

CHAP. VI.

Regulations of government as to post-houses and horses.— Departure. — Description of country. — Marienburg. — Elbing. — Braunsberg. — Brandenburg. — River Havel. — Königsberg. — Description. — Departure. — Country described. — Tilsit. — Treaty of peace here. — Anecdote of Queen of Prussia. — Palace. — Church service. — Profanation of the sabbath. — Remarks. — Memel. — Departure. — Immorsett. — Russian frontiers. — Polangen. — Police. — Strict examination of luggage. — Difficulty as to passports. — Church and monuments described.

On ordering horses for the next stage, we found it necessary to make a written application to the postmaster, agreeably to an order of the King. About ten miles after leaving Dantzic*, the ex-

* The following notice is published by Government, for the information of travellers: —

" At every post-station on the principal roads, there has been prepared, for the convenience of persons travelling by post, a room for their reception, either in the post-house itself, or, when it is not sufficiently spacious, in its neighbourhood. This room is to be properly furnished, lighted during the night, and heated during the winter. Travellers are to be received there gratis at all hours, without being obliged to take any refreshment. In this room is to be placed a tablet bearing the stamp of the General Post-office, and pointing out the refreshments that may be procured, and their prices. There will be, besides, an open register,

cellent road on which we had hitherto travelled ceased, and we again entered on a deep sandy track. The crops did not appear to be so good as those on the other side of Berlin. The ground was high, and commanded a view of an extensive flat country beneath. Crosses, with effigies of our Saviour, small open chapels, and columns with figures, were to be seen along the side of the road. The farm-houses had a poor appearance, compared with those we had before seen. In many of the gardens the caterpillars had made destructive ravages, having quite stripped the fruit trees, and, in some places, even the trees along the road. A stage of twenty-four miles brought us to Diarchan, a small town situate on the Vistula, and surrounded with walls, which are now in a state of dilapidation. This river rises in the Carpathian mountains, on the confines of Moravia and Hungary, flows through Poland and Prussia, Cracow, Sandomer, Warsaw, Culm, and Dantzic, and enters by three mouths into the Baltic. Here we embarked in a large broad-bottomed boat,

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at the head of which will be printed the general post regulations, and, on the blank leaf of which, travellers may inscribe any complaint which they have to make of the tardiness of the persons employed, of the bad quality of the provisions, &c. These complaints will be duly transmitted to the authorities, that the faults may be carefully examined into and redressed."

towed on each side by ropes; and were hurried across to the main land. The Poles convey articles for sale to Dantzic in large flat-bottomed boats of rude construction; and as the stream is too rapid to enable them to return, these vessels are there broken up, and the materials sold.

The country appeared extremely beautiful, and the crops of wheat, rye, and barley, were exceedingly rich. Some of the farm-houses, too, bespoke the easy circumstances of their occupiers. These dwellings have a kind of porch consisting of wooden arches, which not only shade the windows, but permit carriages to pass beneath. There were also small clusters of cottages in the fields, surrounded with trees. We saw numerous groupes of children, whose fair complexions and light hair gave them an interesting appearance.

The view of Marienburg, with a most conspicuous pile of building on a height, bore a strong resemblance to the town of Upsala in Sweden, and the prodigious edifice overhanging it. This structure is of enormous extent, surrounded by a moat; and forms, internally, a quadrangular court, one side of which is formed by a large church. One window of the church is fitted up with an effigy of the Virgin Mary, twenty feet in height. Great part of this place had been converted by the French into magazines; but various improvements were going on to restore

it to its former consequence. One side of it is in the highest order and beauty. Among the apartments were banqueting-halls, council-rooms, chapels, &c. The windows of the latter consisted entirely of stained glass, representing scriptural subjects; and they were also richly emblazoned with coats of arms. One of these, which had under it the name of Hohenlohe, was probably that of some ancestor of the celebrated miracle-worker. In the banqueting-hall, the roof is supported by a single column of granite. When the Poles wished to retake this castle, a red bonnet was held out at a window opposite to the pillar, as a signal in what direction to fire, it being supposed that if a ball struck the column the whole roof would necessarily be instantly demolished. In the hall was a kind of side-board of stone, in a recess communicating with a separate apartment, where the dishes used to be handed in, and a groove was cut to drain off whatever might be spilled. Another magnificent hall is that where the knights assemble, which is ninety-seven feet long, forty-eight broad, and twenty-five in height, and is supported by six pillars in the centre. There are eight windows on one side looking towards the river, and six on the other, all filled with beautiful stained glass.

On quitting Marienburg, we proceeded to Elbing, which is beautifully situated on the other side of the Vistula. Over the principal gate is

a tower with a clock, and surrounded by a railing on the summit. In point of antiquity, the houses are similar to those of Dantzic, and have enormous projections encroaching on the street. There are numerous warehouses for grain, which are oddly enough distinguished by signs like those of taverns; and we noticed that the paintings generally represented a star, sun, spinning-wheel, or some other figure equally unconnected with the purpose to which these buildings are appropriated. The tea-gardens and walks are picturesque, and are much resorted to by the citizens.

Our next stage was through a fertile and luxuriant country, over an excellent road, shaded with rows of poplars. Two miles, however, beyond Treintz it becomes bad again, and the rich vegetation that had before charmed the eye, gives way to sand; nor did any object of interest occur, till, having passed through a wood, we reached the river Frische-haff, which flows into the Baltic, where it is seven miles across. After running along the shore, which is often covered with water, the road bends towards the little town of Frauenberg, situated on a sandy cliff, beneath which small vessels anchor. Hence we proceeded to Braunsberg, on the river Passarge. This place is walled round, and has lofty towers; but they are now in a state of great dilapidation.

Happenbruch, where we stopped to dine, is beautifully situated amidst a rural landscape, enlivened by murmuring brooks, woods, and cottages, and commands a view of the Havel. Our route from this place lay along the banks of the river, which are studded with fishermen's huts; but it afterwards crossed a dreary heath, where the stork was the only living object we beheld. Brandenburg was the next station we arrived at: this place is on an eminence looking down on the river, and the view from it, which is prodigiously grand and extensive, strongly reminded us of the celebrated lakes Vetter and Wenner, in Sweden. The walls, which are of brick, appear to have been at one time strongly fortified, but were now pulling down to serve as materials for other purposes. At one extremity is a view of Pillau, which may be considered as the principal port of Königsberg. Numbers of vessels annually arrive; and those of the greatest burden remain here, as they cannot approach the latter place. Sturgeon is caught here, and it sometimes happens that a single one of these fish furnishes twelve barrels of caviare. All the way from hence to the city we had a view of the Havel. Königsberg, which is the capital of East Prussia, is a place of considerable magnitude, being about ten miles in circumference, and containing a population of nearly 100,000 persons. One of the streets is upwards of a mile in length. Like both Dantzic

and Elbing, this town exhibits a very old-fashioned, inconvenient, and uncouth, but picturesque style of architecture in its buildings; and the manners and mode of living of the inhabitants partake as little of modern refinement as the houses they occupy. On the projecting landing before the doors chairs are placed, and these are usually occupied by groups, who prefer this public situation to the retirement of their sitting-rooms. Here the men smoke and lounge, and the women employ themselves with needle-work, casting in the meanwhile many an inquisitive, and often roguish glance, on the passengers in the streets.

This custom says more for the simplicity of the people of Königsberg, than for their refinement or taste for intellectual pursuits. The Hebrew race here is not a little numerous, and in walking along we observed several boards with inscriptions in their language. Many of the streets are so narrow that two carriages can hardly pass, and the loftiness of the houses, with their antiquated gable fronts, makes them look still more confined and gloomy. But if we found little of elegance and cheerfulness to delight the eye, there is still less of comfort for the feet of a pedestrian; the pavement being so uneven and bad, that it seems as if it was intended to render walking a penance, and it is at the same time so destructive to shoes, that one might imagine it to have been devised by the fraternity

of Crispin for the peculiar advantage of their own profession. It may, however, be remarked, that the new town is built in a more modern style, and with greater attention to comfort. We may talk of the magnificence of former times, but comfort and convenience must certainly be of modern invention. The principal object, however, is the cathedral: this edifice, which was built in 1332, is 330 feet in length, and 93 in breadth. It contains an organ with 5000 pipes, and a number of monuments of various distinguished characters. The most conspicuous of these are, one erected to the memory of the Marquis of Brandenburg, that of Frederick Albrecht and his wife, and a third of the Duke of Brunswick, the founder of the empire. Here is likewise the tomb of the celebrated philosopher and metaphysician, Kant. Below the church are vaults, which were opened at this time, and remain so one month in the year, containing the coffins of Sigismund, first duke of Prussia, and other royal personages, with their children. In the church itself are full-length portraits of several dignitaries; the last of whom is Dr. Graaf, who died Dec. 28. 1820. In two apartments above it is the library, containing 20,000 volumes. Among the books pointed out as most curious, are, one printed at Lubeck, in 1534, in which were written the dates of Luther's birth and death; and a manuscript copy of Justinian's Institutes on vellum. There is also shown a pass-

port granted by the emperor Charles V. to the great Apostle of the Reformation, permitting him to proceed from Eisleben to Worms, dated March 6. 1521.

The Exchange is a wooden building, painted of a purple colour, and is situated at one of the gates at the end of a timber bridge. It has a portico of six columns, and makes a neat appearance. The hall is seventy feet long, and forty broad, with an arched roof.

The palace, which stands in the centre of the town, has internally a quadrangle, forming a cloister supported by pillars. It is greatly out of repair, and has been patched up at different times. One angle, however, is of more modern appearance, and it should seem that at one period it was intended to rebuild the whole on the same plan. This edifice is situated in the centre of the town, and in front of it stands a bronze statue of Frederick I. on a pedestal of white marble, with this inscription:—

"FRIEDRICH DER ERSTE, KÖNIG
DER PREUSSEN,
ZU KOENIGSBERG
GEKRONT,
DEN XVIII. JANVER
MDCCI."

And under the figure of an eagle—

"SUUM CUIQUE."

Several copper vats on sledges are stationed in the court for supplies of water in case of fire. In one part of the building is a church, the steeple of which we ascended, and from its summit obtained a complete view of the city and its environs. Every traveller would do well to reconnoitre the town from this altitude, either previously or subsequently to viewing it in detail, that he may bear away with him in his memory a general map of it. Here will he behold a complete prospect of the whole city, its gardens, its streets, the serpentine windings of the rivers Havel and Pregel — which run by the town, and form one portion of it into an island — the vessels at anchor, the bridges, &c., forming altogether a *tout-ensemble* highly interesting and beautiful. In the tower a sentinel is stationed to give alarm on the discovery of fire. There are likewise three stands of colours, black, red, and yellow: the former is displayed to the inhabitants in case of fire breaking out in any of the churches; the second is used as a signal if the fire has happened in any other place, and the yellow standard is hoisted should it have broken out in any street. Since these signals, however, can be serviceable only by day, when they can be distinctly seen, there ought to be some other mode adopted in order to apprize the inhabitants of similar accidents in the night; for which purpose a bell or larum might be employed, and the quarter of the

town in which the fire happened might be indicated by the number of times it was sounded in succession.

Königsberg has a university, founded in 1525, an asylum for the blind, and a theatre: the latter structure is built of brick, painted yellow, and measures 269 by 110 feet. Adjoining to this is a square where the troops are exercised, planted with triple rows of trees, and surrounded by neat houses.

Those who are guided in their choice of a residence merely by motives of economy, might be justified in fixing upon this town, provisions being remarkably moderate here; as an instance of which it may be observed, that a goose may be bought for six-pence.

On departing from Königsberg, we found there were three different roads in the direction of Memel. One of these, although the shortest, is the most tedious, and less practicable for carriages, on account of the sand. This route extends along a narrow neck of land, dividing the Curische Haff and the Baltic, where, for nearly twenty miles, there are deep sands. We, therefore, selected another, and reached Labiau, situated on the river Deime, which flows in a serpentine direction through the country. In one place the road passed through a gloomy wood of birch and pine, for eight miles together; and in this rude and savage tract are to be found

wolves, stags, wild beasts, serpents (three feet in length), and venomous reptiles. Wild strawberries grow most profusely in the woods, and are gathered by the peasants, who present them to travellers for a trifle. On emerging from this scene of wildness, the cultivated landscape looked doubly pleasing from the contrast. Here the fields were neatly inclosed with wooden palings, formed of trees sloped and fixed to two upright pieces, about twelve feet asunder; at the bottom of which, turf is piled up about two feet in height, and secured by pieces of wood on each side. The country now became bare, and the crops were prodigiously behind in growth, considering the advanced season. We saw many storks standing, two and two, looking at each other in their proud and erect attitude. The houses of the villages we passed, were of a different construction from what we had before seen. They are formed after the Swedish mode, with logs of wood placed above each other, with mud, moss, or turf put between them; and they have high roofs covered with thatch. They were not, however, painted, as in that country, and had, therefore, a sombre appearance from the effect of the weather on the wood. The use of such combustible materials may, in some degree, account for the frequency of fires. One village had been almost entirely destroyed by a conflagration a few days before we passed it.

At length we reached Tilsit, and put up at a hotel in front of the Niemen, which is here about the breadth of the Thames. This is a dull town, although containing 10,000 persons. The principal street is of great length and breadth, but is badly paved. The houses are painted of different colours, and present much diversity of form; but have mostly old-fashioned gable roofs, terminating in a point. This mode of building doubtless arose from the value of ground towards the street, as the depth of the houses is considerably greater than the width of their fronts. Uninteresting as the town is in itself, it excites the attention of the traveller, from its having been the place where Russia entered into an alliance with France, and where the celebrated treaty of peace was concluded between those powers and Prussia, in 1807, in presence of the two monarchs and Bonaparte, when, it is said, the partition of Turkey was discussed. It was about 200 yards above the bridge, to the right, that the interview took place between these rulers, on a float of wood in the centre of the river, upon which a temporary house was built. It is somewhat remarkable that there is neither monument or inscription to record this important event, and point out the precise spot. During the negociation the Queen of Prussia was here; and it is supposed her presence tended to soften the ferocity of Bonaparte. She

had a personal interview with him, when she implored for an honourable peace; but he treated this amiable princess with rude *hauteur* and indignity, being rendered insolent by the successes he had obtained.

There is an ancient palace, which was formerly surrounded by fortified walls; but it was sold by the King to the merchants, and is now used as a magazine. This town has also suffered at various times from conflagration; and a fire, which had broken out a few weeks before our arrival, demolished several houses. Among the buildings thus destroyed, was unfortunately the public museum, containing many valuable manuscripts, the whole of which were reduced to tinder. The flames extended also to the principal church, and burned the roof and part of the spire. One of the houses thus consumed, was that which had been occupied by the Emperor of Russia; farther up the same street was the one in which Napoleon lodged.

Passing Sunday here, we had an opportunity of attending church, of marking the form of the service, and the several religious rites, and also the conduct of the inhabitants on this sacred day. A short discourse having been delivered by the clergyman, the organ played; after which he proceeded to the altar to dispense the communion, in which he was assisted by a senior minister, who

wore a black cap. Upon the altar-table stood two lighted tapers, a flaggon, and gilt silver cups. The organ having again begun to play, part of the congregation kneeled in front of the altar, the others standing up. The junior clergyman held in his hand some small pieces of bread, which he put into the mouth of each communicant, who immediately afterwards turned round to the other side of the altar, where the senior was stationed, before whom they kneeled and received the cup. On this occasion the music ceased, and the minister commenced singing an anthem in a low tone of voice, in which he was joined by the congregation. After this a benediction was pronounced, and another psalm sung, accompanied by the organ. The pulpit was of carved wood, gilt, covered with black velvet, edged with gold fringe; and was surmounted by the figure of an angel with a sword, the apostles, and Moses holding the commandments. There is a portrait of Luther, and a few others of some former pastors of the church. The back of the altar is of carved wood, extending to the roof, with a representation of the crucifixion and ascension. On each side are two massy gilt chairs, with paintings and inscriptions. To the right of the altar is a large tablet, with the names, in gold letters, of those belonging to the town who had fallen in action. We also wit-

nessed a baptismal ceremony; and, on this occasion, the child was presented by a female relative to the minister, who stood at the altar, and the mother on the right hand of it. After an exhortation had been delivered, they proceeded to the font, where was a table covered with red cloth, fringed with gold, a white cloth being thrown over it; and there was a large bowl, containing water, for the baptismal ceremony, the clergyman pronouncing an oration. There were several infants; and we were amused by the mother of one presenting it to us, and beckoning us to carry it to the altar, which, as may be supposed, we thought proper to decline. After the ceremony, pieces of money were put into the hands of the infants as gifts, in imitation of the offerings of the Magi at Bethlehem. On leaving this church, a different, and it may be justly added, very scandalous scene, presented itself; for the adjoining square had quite the appearance of a public fair, booths being erected, where various articles were selling during the very time of divine service. So grossly, too, is the decorum due to the Sabbath violated, that sportsmen might be seen returning from shooting, with their dogs and guns and attendants. I am aware there are many who are disposed to think that the Lord's day is kept by us with too much strictness; and who exclaim against the

dullness of an English Sunday, asserting that we interdict even the most innocent sports and recreations on that day. Yet I trust that we shall never become so *liberal*, or divest ourselves of insular *prejudices* so far, as to adopt the *innocent* amusements of our continental neighbours, and convert the day that is expressly set apart for public religious duties, into one of traffic, revelry, and idle, if not always absolutely vicious, diversion. Did, it may be asked, the great reformer, Luther, whose memory is pretended to be so much idolized in this country, intend to countenance such a baneful laxity of practice? or would he not rather have opposed it, as a return to the errors of that church whose worldly-mindedness and unspiritual conduct he so fearlessly and eloquently denounced in the strongest language?

Leaving Tilsit, we travelled three miles along the banks of the river, which, owing to the numerous vessels on its surface, presented an interesting and lively scene. After travelling all night and next day, we arrived at Memel.

This city, which is situated in East Prussia, and traversed by the small river Dange, is a place of considerable importance for its commerce, and has about 7000 inhabitants. The suburbs, which contain 4000, are divided into two districts, and are under a particular jurisdic-

tion. The houses are of different heights, with projecting pantile roofs, and steps in front, and heavy iron railings ornamented with brass bolts; but several of them are fitted up with some degree of taste. Viewed from the bridges, the place is not altogether unlike a Dutch town. The house occupied by their Majesties of Prussia, when they were obliged to abandon their capital, on its being invaded by the French, is one story in height, and is situated on one of the quays. All their effects had been packed up, to be carried out of Prussia, in case the French should have advanced to Memel; but the royal fugitives remained here till the peace of Tilsit.

There are four churches, seven public seminaries of learning, and an establishment of a respectable order for six widows of decayed merchants; two hospitals, one supported by the town, the other by the King; and two others for the sick poor. The theatre (128 feet in length, and 60 in breadth, with a portico of eight columns,) is open only during winter. The Exchange, which is built of wood, is a neat structure, and was founded by the merchants about the year 1790: at the upper end of the hall is a full-length of the King. The harbour is about half a German mile in length, and 1600 feet in breadth. At the entrance of the bar the depth of water is not more than from twelve to fif-

teen feet, according to circumstances.* The inner harbour, as it may be called, where ships can only load, is very narrow, but is three quarters of an English mile in length. On the east side of the harbour are twenty-nine mills for sawing wood; and on the north point of the port, is a light-house. Opposite to part of the harbour is an island of sand, which, at one period, was covered with trees; but these were cut down by the Russians. On this spot stands a solitary house, where Kotzebue is said to have written several of his interesting works. The coast may be considered dangerous; and it was off Memel that Lord Royston, only son of Earl Hardwicke, met with a watery grave. The air is keen, but salubrious, so that contagious distempers rarely occur. During summer, the thermometer of Reaumur stands, in the shade, as high as 23 and 25°.

* A number of English vessels visit this port, as will appear from the following table, from the years 1817 to 1823.

In 1817.	626 vessels,	whereof were	300 British
1818.	770	- -	413
1819.	691	- - -	268
1820.	648	- -	267
1821.	566	- - -	325
1822.	688	- -	421
1823.	600	- - -	332

The exports consist of timber, corn, seed, flax, hemp, hides, bristles, wax, &c. For some years past the imports have been trifling, and consist chiefly of colonial produce.

There are Consuls here for England, Russia, Holland, Denmark, Hanover, and Oldenburg. Mr. Fowler is the first mentioned of these. The town is subject to conflagrations; and we found that several houses had been lately burned down. In some of the docks, where tar is prepared, a very proper regulation is introduced by the police, particularly enjoining that the buildings should have iron doors, to guard against any accident from this dangerous operation.* Slaves are employed at the various different public works, and we observed them labouring in repairing the roads. From the citadel, which is on a height surrounded with water, there is a fine prospect of the town and harbour. The commander, who resides here, has the title of colonel, and it is one of the few situations in Prussia that may be considered as a sinecure.

Upon the 6th of June we proceeded on our journey, and passing through an uninteresting

* The following is a copy of this order, which is recommended for adoption in places where similar inflammable articles are kept:—

"You are desired to boil your pitch and tar in the kitchen, marked No. 1. and to have a careful watch upon it during the time. If the tar or pitch should happen to take fire, the iron chimney lids are to be pulled down, and the windows and doors shut immediately. Immediate imprisonment and hard punishment will be inflicted upon those that are found guilty of the least neglect or disobedience to any part of this order.

"*Royal Prussian Harbour Policy Commission.*"

country, arrived at Immorsett. About 500 paces beyond this, the Prussian territories terminate at a barrier, where our passports were examined; and nearly a hundred steps further, is another barrier, where the Russian frontiers commence. The barriers of every state on the continent have their distinct and peculiar mark. Those of Prussia are painted with black and white stripes alternately; and in Russia they are white, with a red border. The gate was opened by an officer, and a filthy, surly Cossack, wrapped up in a brown coat, and with huge bushy whiskers, beard, and mustachioes, holding a naked sword, and assuming an air of official superiority. At Polangen all the luggage was taken to a house occupied by the Douaniers; and every article was turned out, handled, and examined. We were prepared to find great jealousy exercised on the part of the Russians towards books, especially such, however trifling, as treated in any way of this country; and had, therefore, abstained from bringing any. Their suspicion of such articles had been of late greatly increased by publications speaking unreservedly on the subject of the Russian empire. I had but one book in my portmanteau, and this was a volume of my travels in the Holy Land, which was intended as a present to the Emperor. It was, however, instantly seized upon: the officers took it into another room, and shut the door;

but it being in the English language, they could not tell what were its contents, and demanded the nature of the publication. On my Russian servant informing them that it was for his Imperial Majesty, and that if they chose they might attach the lead to it, with the official mark, and send it to St. Petersburg, they again held a consultation, and sent for the principal douanier. We were then ordered into the apartment, where was a most ferocious-looking fellow with a drawn sword, whose appearance was well calculated to inspire awe; he stood on one side, in an erect attitude like a statue, beside an enormous pair of scales suspended from the ceiling; and after much conversation, through the medium of my interpreter, the volume was returned.* But now another difficulty occurred: on our passport being examined, which had been obtained by our servant from the Russian consul of Hamburgh, and was duly signed by the authorities at the different stages of our route, we were informed that it was absolutely necessary it should be subscribed by the consul of Memel. Nor could the strongest arguments or representations satisfy them; but the servant was actually obliged to set off directly to that place, in order to obtain the requisite signature. Pa-

* A lady and her servants had their luggage so strictly investigated, that actually their cases of needles and thread were examined.

tience being now our only remedy, we proceeded to an inn kept by a Jew, where we found ourselves surrounded by beings totally different in looks, dress, and manners, from any we had hitherto met with. The houses are built entirely of wood; and one side of the street is inhabited by the Hebrew race, the other by Cossacks. The church is very ancient; and in the burying ground attached to it, are three lofty crosses, in memory of those on Mount Calvary. There is also a figure, intended to represent our Saviour chained to a pillar, and suffering flagellation. This was besmeared with paint in imitation of blood; and one cannot but regret the bad taste, to call it nothing worse, that indulges in exhibitions of this kind, so little calculated to promote genuine piety, or rather so apt to excite feelings of a very different nature. There was, too, in the church-yard, a monument of the strangest form we ever beheld, it being not much unlike a pigeon-house. It had a window on three sides, and on the fourth the painting of a clock-dial; and in the interior was the figure of a coffin surrounded by angels. In the church are three chapels dressed up with a deal of trumpery ornament; and several females were crawling on their knees round the altar, offering up their devotions. In this wretched place we were obliged to continue the remainder of the day, without any means of whiling away the time, in

an apartment that was the very picture of desolation, and where we were sadly annoyed by vermin. It was a great relief when our servant returned from Memel with the passports, which we hailed with as much joy as a prisoner would an order to liberate him from his captivity.

CHAP. VII.

Mode of yoking horses, and of calculating distances.—Russian money.— Dress of peasantry.— Postilions.— Fine scenery. — River Windau.— Arrest of English travellers. — The Dwina.— Mittau.— Palace occupied by Louis XVIII.— Departure.— Riga.— Château.— Society of Schwartzhaupter.— Their collection of plate.— The reunion, or parliament-house.— Cathedral.— Cloister.— Churches.— College.— Military punishments.— Police.— Singular vessels. — Wolves.— Rare species of insect.

NOTWITHSTANDING we had a passport granted by the Russian authority at London, which had been examined and signed by the Russian consul at Memel, the police-master thought fit to furnish us with a *podoroshna*, permitting us to proceed to St. Petersburg, for which we paid 23 rubles, or 19*s.* sterling. These podoroshnas form no inconsiderable item in the "ways and means" of this country. Being now assured, in the language of the knight of the whip, that things were "all right," we left this deplorable inn, after being sadly annoyed by vermin, and surrounded with filth. We were furnished with four horses, paying for four miles and a half German 16*s.* 8*d.*, and found that the operations performed upon the carriage at Memel for yoking the animals à la Russe, were far from being

unnecessary. The horses were put abreast, but the driver declined being elevated, preferring, according to the practice of this country, to sit, not on the box, but under it, at the feet of my servant, and so very low that the horses almost prevented him from seeing the road; while the switching of their tails served as a fan to his face, which appeared not unlike that of Vulcan, being as dirty as if there was neither water nor a scrubbing brush to be found in the country. We had therefore no reason to regret that our Jehu did not form a more conspicuous part of the equipage, for his appearance was by no means calculated to flatter our vanity; so ragged and miserable in fact was his attire, that an Irish beggar would have gained nothing by exchanging suits with him.

We set off at four o'clock in the morning, and travelled along a broad tract of sand, on which were laid stumps of trees; and passed through a wood of fir and junipers. At the entrance of it there was a timber erection, upwards of 100 feet in height, similar to the stands on a race-ground. This was for the accommodation of the douaniers, who occasionally mount it to make observations, and keep watch on those who convey contraband articles.

The distances are calculated by versts, (three quarters of an English mile,) which are marked by upright poles of coarse wood, 20 feet high,

painted with red, black, and white stripes, with the number rudely cut on a clumsy board at the top. * „We found the time occupied in driving between each, exceeded little more than seven minutes. In one spot were storks perched on large nests, on the tops of trees, where we had not before observed any of this species of the feathered race. We stopped to breakfast at a post-house, and during our repast, the post-master, a veteran leaning on a crutch, with many years "hanging on his back," and remarkable for his polite address, informed us that he had been in the service of Frederick the Great, and spoke with enthusiasm of his military exploits. On our observing in the room a picture representing the entry of the allies into Paris, he said there had been a likeness hung up there of his renowned master, but that the French had taken it down and thrown it into the fire before his face, on which, lame as he was, he laid his crutch along some of their backs. During this speech he held up the weapon with a grin, and suiting the "action to the word," showed us the manner in which he had applied it.

We departed from this place with very small horses, similar to those in Sweden, and got into

* In Poland the mile is one-twentieth of a degree. In Arabia, it is three-fourths of an English mile. In Denmark, Sweden, and Hungary, the mile is the same as in England; and in Scotland and Ireland it is one English mile and a half.

the great road, which led through a wood where there was a profusion of wild strawberries. Some parts were cleared, and we saw farm houses built of wood and roofed with thatch. From the singular dress of the people, it was absolutely impossible to distinguish their sex. The wood continued as far as the next station, and we passed the barrier which divides Livonia and Courland, proceeding along the bridge on floating piles, across the small river Upisod. Notwithstanding it was the month of June, the crops were only a few inches above ground. On arriving at the post-house, the person who furnished us with fresh horses, said, pointing to the imperial on our carriage, that travellers who had this accommodation and two portmanteaus, were obliged to take four horses. We took five, only four being charged for, and had no reason to complain either of the animals or their driver, shabby as he was, for we actually travelled two versts in eight minutes. The driver too played us an air on his horn. This we at first supposed was to show his musical skill, or from the hope of being rewarded; but we soon discovered that it was a signal to a cobler, who bolted forth from his stall, with an enormous bottle of spirits, and filling a tin jug to the brim, presented it to the postilion. The latter quaffed it off in a second with great avidity, smacking his lips at the delicious beverage, which acted as such a spur to him,

that he galloped off like lightning. The fellow kept constantly jabbering to his horses, modulating his voice so as to be understood by whichever he addressed in particular. It was not a little entertaining, too, to hear him reason with the animals, as if they were capable of comprehending him: in speaking to the seniors, he would appeal to their experience, and suggest the propriety of their showing a proper example to the others. If a horse had not been turned out for some days, he would abuse him for his laziness, or express a hope that he would not allow others of less strength to outstrip him; frequently too he would flatter them when they proceeded at a proper pace, styling them his *golubki* (doves), a very common term of endearment among the Russians.

Never were we before driven with greater velocity, having travelled about eighteen English miles in the course of two hours and a quarter, the animals proceeding at full gallop, so that we were repeatedly apprehensive that we should be upset; for as the roads are laid with trunks of trees covered with sand, the jolting was intolerable. There were but few farm-houses, the population was scanty, and the houses and villages had a dark and gloomy aspect. We passed, however, a neat château, with a portico in front, the first we had seen for a long time, and arrived at Tadaiken. During the next stage the road was tolerably good; but

there was a deal of waste land, and such parts as were cultivated yielded miserable crops. Afterwards the scenery became beautiful, and resembled that in many parts of Sweden, having clumps of lofty spruce and birch trees, hills, vallies, and sheets of water. The females we saw were occupied in spinning with the distaff. The fields are remarkably small, and the ploughs here are of a peculiar construction. They have two shares, and the horse is placed between shafts, as if drawing a carriage, the extremity of which is not more than a foot and half from the ground. At Drogensche post-house, the postilion, although paid liberally, and, indeed, beyond what the regulations prescribed, annoyed us extremely; and perceiving that we were strangers, he used the most fawning and sycophantish behaviour to effect his object, kissing our hands and clothes. About three miles beyond this station, we passed an elegant mansion, built exactly in the English style, situate on an elevation, with a piece of water in front; and it was certainly the best house we had hitherto observed in Russia. We scarcely met a vehicle of any description the whole day, and the few peasants we passed were deplorably clothed, many of them, with their children, being actually in rags. The women, who are dressed in coarse jackets and petticoats, have a great squalidity of countenance, and their per-

sons are quite disgusting; their breasts, like those of women I have seen in Greece, hanging down, and their shifts have two enormous buckles, the size of small biscuits, as a kind of ornament under the throat. Before every house there is a clumsy well, with chains for pulling up water in buckets, and covered with a roof of pantile resting on a log of wood on each side. At every other farm-house also are two posts, with cross-beams at top, and with two long branches suspended from them, to which a piece of wood is affixed below as a seat, for the purpose of enjoying the exercise of swinging. During this stage the country was distinguished by the same beauty as in the former one; the road, too, was, for the most part, tolerable, until it struck into a wood, where the ground was deep sand, through which we were, with difficulty, dragged to the next post of Schrunden, the animals being completely knocked up. We found that we had, this day, travelled ninety miles, and during fifty of them had not seen a single church.

On setting out again next morning, we remarked that the horses had no shoes. The river Windau, where we crossed a flat bridge like a raft, formed of logs of wood, was, at this time, very low; but at some seasons this stream is extremely dangerous to pass, on account of the great rapidity of the current. One circum-

stance that struck us was, that we had not observed a single soldier since passing the frontier; whereas in Prussia we found them in all directions. With respect to the scenery, we could not help fancying ourselves in Sweden, so much does the general aspect of this part of Russia resemble that country. What contributes to render travelling here less tedious, is the difference of the computation of distances, and the frequent recurrence of the verst-poles informing the traveller of his progress.

The post at Trawenbourg, where we halted to breakfast, might be called the house of a comfortable gentleman farmer; and we were waited upon by two genteel girls, the postmaster's daughters. Here we became somewhat alarmed at hearing that an Englishman had been arrested while travelling, and detained some weeks under this very roof, by the police, from whom he suffered many indignities. This gentleman, who was a clergyman of excellent character, and whom we had the pleasure of knowing personally, was returning from St. Petersburg, where he had been spending the winter with a family of rank, and was going to Paris in company with a Frenchman, when, before he reached the frontier, he was rudely seized by a police officer, who forced him to change his route, and accompany him to Riga. In this dilemma he was

obliged to abandon his *companion de voyage*, and was hurried, like a felon, into a cart without springs. Being greatly overcome with fatigue, he could not proceed, and was allowed to remain in this spot. Every rule of propriety or common decency was disregarded; his papers were laid hold of, and he was as rigidly examined, as if a charge of high-treason had been brought against him. The officer proceeded to Riga to report what had occurred. No explanation whatever could be obtained, why a British subject, a gentleman of character, and a minister of religion, against whom not the shadow of a charge could be brought, as to any thing of a criminal nature, should be thus treated. Another instance of exceedingly tyrannical and most oppressive conduct towards a British subject travelling in Russia, is that of Mr. Holman, the well-known traveller; and what rendered the outrage, in this instance, more aggravating and unfeeling, is that he is deprived of sight, and ought, therefore, to have excited sympathy and commiseration rather than mistrust. Independently also of this severe affliction, his deportment is so mild and amiable, that there could not exist any reasonable pretence for the harshness and severity exercised towards him. Notwithstanding this, he was apprehended, like a criminal, in the eastern part of Siberia, whither he had penetrated in

spite of all obstacles and infirmities, and was hurried back through Russia and Poland, under the surveillance of an officer of police, to Vienna. Even in this latter city he was not permitted to remain, so formidable did this unfortunate and helpless individual appear to the governments of Russia and Austria. It is altogether difficult to say, whether the severity, or the pusillanimity shown by them towards an unoffending stranger, ought most to excite our surprise or indignation. These governments ought to blush at such petty, contemptible tyranny, which, even if it could be justified, exhibits a distrust that does them little credit: neither are these solitary instances, for many of a similar nature might be added, did space permit. Happily there is, at least, one country to be found, where the stranger can travel unmolested by the petty tyranny of the police, or without danger of being hunted by spies and informers, treated as a felon, or receive the slightest insult from any individual.

The horses with which we were furnished for the next stage, were such uncouth, ragged animals, that they appeared as if just caught in a desert; and the mane of one of them was so inconveniently long,—nearly touching the ground, that we proposed it should be trimmed. Our host, however, put a negative on this, assuring us

that such an operation might affect the health of the animal. The road now led through a country beautifully interspersed with woods, with here and there pieces of water gleaming through the trees. Having passed through Bachof and Dobilis, we shortly after entered upon a piece of road so sandy, that it was with the utmost difficulty the carriage could proceed at all. We now, however, began to meet several carts, some drawn by eight and others by four horses, abreast; and found that we were approaching to some place of importance. The peasants wear a coarse coat, of a pepper and salt colour, which appears here to be the favourite hue. This garment is very long, and plaited very full round the waist, so as to form a kind of petticoat. The females have their heads bound round with a handkerchief, and merely a petticoat and shift; and some of them have neither shoes nor stockings. Others wear a species of leather sandal on the soles of their feet, which is tied round the ancle. The children are exceedingly ragged, and many have only a shirt. The houses are built of wood, and the smoke escapes through the door, as is the case in the Highlands of Scotland.

At length the capital of Courland came into view; and after we had gone through the usual formalities at the gate, we were

permitted to enter Mittau, which is situated in a very flat country, on the banks of the Dwina; has a small harbour, and a population of about 18,000 inhabitants. The buildings, which are chiefly of wood, and many of them painted a variety of colours, are two stories in height, though several consist only of a ground floor. Some stand quite detached in the centre of the streets, with wooden colonnades, under which are shops of a very gloomy appearance. There is a large square, one side of which is nearly occupied by a public cistern or reservoir of water, with this inscription: —

"MUNIFICENTIA
ALEXANDRI.
M. D. CCXV."

There is, also, in the same *place*, a small guard-house, having a large bell fixed to a post covered at top, which the sentinel rings whenever any person of military distinction passes, as a signal to the military on duty to turn out and make a salute. In this square the market is held; and we were surprised at the prodigious quantities of leeks and onions we saw: these are greedily devoured by the lower classes, who may be seen eating them like fruit. Six deserters happened at this time to be brought in; they were bound together two and two, by a heavy block of wood about three feet long,

fastened to their wrists, and secured by a lock. There is a theatre, where performances take place during the summer months. The most interesting edifice is a palace immediately adjoining the town, which at one time was the residence of the Dukes of Courland, and which was inhabited by Louis XVIII. and his consort, during their exile. It has three fronts, and is built of brick, plastered and white-washed. Great part is in a very dilapidated state, and much of it had been destroyed by the caprice of the Emperor Paul; but enough remains to show its original grandeur and consequence. We went over the apartments, some of which are spacious, and remain in the same state as when they were occupied by Louis and his family. In the dining-room, which is 52 feet by 40, with four large windows, the furniture consisted of chairs, with red morocco cushions, a sofa, and three small tables. The ceiling is of heavy stucco-work, with a crystal lustre suspended from it; and on the walls are some paintings in fresco. There are enormous shelves in this room; and the chimney-piece is adorned with trees and flowers in stucco, plated to resemble silver. At the period the French took possession of this country, with an army of 50,000 men, they used this palace as an hospital, and broke these ornaments, under the idea that they were real silver. The ante-room to the bed-chamber did not dis-

play much luxury or elegance, for the walls were covered with Dutch tiles, than which nothing could appear more vulgar and miserable. Such were the apartments in which the descendant of the founder of Versailles, and its gorgeous halls, held his little court. This leads me to remark, that he was formally acknowledged, in 1798, King of France, by the Emperor of Russia; and was actually invited to reside here until he should be restored to the throne of his ancestors, during which time he was treated with the honours due to his exalted rank, and had a guard of 200 Russians. The Russian commander of Mittau was also entirely under his orders. His Majesty was not, however, permitted to enjoy this asylum long; for after he had been here about a year, the Emperor Paul, at the instigation of Napoleon, drove the persecuted monarch from his dominions, limiting the very time for that purpose, so that the Duchess of Angoulême, who was then with him, was actually forced to raise a sum of money on her jewels, to defray their travelling expences. Louis afterwards inhabited the palace of the dethroned King of Poland in Warsaw; but this, too, he was forced to abandon by order of the Prussian minister, who asked him to renounce the throne in favour of Bonaparte, a proposition which was rejected with noble indignation. A plot being discovered for the

assassination of this royal wanderer, he was obliged to leave the Continent and seek a retreat in England, the only country open to fugitives. Here the exiled monarch remained in comfort and independence, to the honour of the liberality of the British government, surrounded by faithful friends and adherents, and treated with respect by all, employing his time in reading and reflection, until the memorable event took place that restored him to the throne of his ancestors, when he quitted the British metropolis amidst the acclamations of thousands, on the 20th of April, 1814, and entered his own capital after an absence of twenty-three years.

The inn we had selected for our quarters proved a most disagreeable residence, it being disgustingly filthy, and swarming with vermin, to whom, it should seem, a kind of hereditary respect is paid; yet the charges were as much as if there had been the most luxurious accommodation; and the landlord had the assurance to demand 3*s.* 4*d.* per night for a bed for our servant, in a kind of pigeon-hole. In this instance, however, his extortion was justly defeated, as our domestic preferred sleeping in our carriage to being thrust into such a vile den. We were glad to quit Mittau the very next day, and crossed the Dwina, and also another small river, called Ekow, where mounds of earth thrown up on each side, marked the operations of the French

to secure this passage. The dress of the postilion exactly resembled that of an Hibernian beggar, and he was the most complete tatterdemalion that imagination can figure. But if he was not the most flattering object to the eye, the ding-dong of a large bell attached to the horses, like that of a dustman's cart in London, was as little agreeable to the ear. An obelisk, about thirteen miles distant from Mittau, marks the extremity of Courland, and another points to the commencement of Livonia.

Although we now entered upon a new territory, our passports were not demanded, nor our names taken down as on former occasions. Every thing here assumed another aspect: we met numerous carts, and the grotesque figures who drove them, were ragged, half naked, and wore long beards, similar to the savage Arabs I had seen in the East. On entering a wood of lofty firs, the environs of Riga came into view, and afterwards the town itself, which is in the form of a bow. At one place we were stopped by a soldier, who demanded our podrozhna, which, having examined, he returned, and we were allowed to proceed. We then crossed the Dwina on a long flat floating bridge, extending about 2,600 feet, and forty in breadth, supported by sixty-four piles. This is removed at the commencement of Winter, and laid up till the following Spring. On each side were vessels of different

nations at anchor, with their sterns placed in front of the bridge. From this bridge the view of the city, situated on an elevation, with its spires and domes — some of them, owing to a particular kind of composition with which they are coated, sparkling in the sun like silver, together with the ships, small craft, and the bustle in the harbour, was extremely striking and picturesque. Having reached the opposite bank, we entered Riga, and after driving about some time in search of accommodation, at length got a room in the London hotel, a name so often given to these places on the Continent, to catch the eye of English travellers, and lead them to suppose they are superior to others. It proved, however, as unlike an hotel in London as can possibly be imagined, being a most wretched and uncomfortable place, and, to add to our vexation, our apartments were at the top of the house.

The foundation of the capital of Livonia is dated as far back as 1201. The town is situated on the Dwina, five miles from its mouth, in a gulf of the Baltic; and it is surrounded by ramparts and ditches, some of which are filled with water. The inhabitants amount to 60,000. The buildings are very old-fashioned, and the streets are narrow. There are several gates, which are shut at nine at night, and opened at three o'clock in the morning, with the exception of two that are kept open at all hours. One of

the towers where cannon are planted, points to the road leading to St. Petersburgh: there are four bullets sticking in the wall, said to have lodged there during a siege of the city, and to render them more conspicuous they are painted red. The importance of Riga may be considered chiefly to arise from its contiguity to the river.

In a large square is a column of polished red granite, on three circular steps, inclosed with an iron railing. This was erected in 1817 by the merchants, at the expence of 500*l.* Part of the buildings surrounding this square, form the courts of law, public offices, and an exchange. There is also a column with a chain and iron collar, to which criminals are attached when undergoing flagellation; and a château or palace, with towers of very great antiquity, the foundation of which is uncertain. This building belongs, at present, to a society of Schwartzenhaupter, or black-heads, who are thirty-six in number. Whatever may be the circumstances in which this title originated, only one opinion can exist as to the heads of the members being sound with respect to the principles of humanity. The entrance-money of a member is 40*l.*, and those who happen to be in circumstances of indigence after attaining the age of fifty, are allowed 40*l.* yearly. Under this description only two are, at present, on the list. Their benevolence extends

also to the widows and children of members. Should the former, however, again enter into the marriage state, it disqualifies them from these privileges. With respect to the edifice itself, it boasts of some degree of consequence: in the principal hall are twelve lustres, and a gallery for music; and there is a room below for refreshments. In the first-mentioned apartment is a picture of Catherine II., and another portrait of her in miniature, on horseback. In a room adjoining is a view of Lubeck, and a portrait of Charles XII., who once held his head-quarters under this roof, and defeated Peter the Great in an action near Riga. In a second chamber is a view of the suburbs, as burning when set on fire in 1812, to prevent their falling into the hands of the French: there is also some painted glass taken from the window of a church, and a portrait of Peter the Great. A profusion of very ancient silver plate is displayed here, in a variety of curious shapes and devices: figures of men in armour on horseback, flaggons for wine, and salvers with scriptural texts; St. George and the Dragon (with the date 1563), a drinking vessel, four feet in height, and in the form of a horse without a head, with a man seated on it, the neck of the animal forming the mouth of the cup. One piece of plate represents Charles XII. at the battle of Narva in this neighbourhood; and there are enormous flaggons em-

bossed with medals; and salvers chased with religious subjects, one of which has the date 1671. The value of the whole is estimated at 20,000*l.* a treasure rarely found to belong to private societies of this description in any country.

The house for the convocation of the Livonian nobility — a kind of Parliament, or, as it is called, the Re-union, where they meet every three years, is commodious, and has a handsome suite of apartments. In the principal one, which is modern, we found a large portrait of the Emperor Alexander, in a most gorgeous frame, raised on steps, covered with green baize. Three large pier-glasses are on each side of this hall; a chair for the president stands at the head of the table, and seats for the secretaries on each side. A large silver staff, similar to those carried by English beadles, is used by the president for the purpose of commanding silence. The walls are ornamented, as in the hall of the diet at Stockholm, with the arms of the nobles. One of the members is obliged to take up his residence here during a month, for which he is allowed one million rubles.

Until lately the ancient cathedral had been occupied as a magazine. It is 232 feet in length, and 107 in breadth, and is fitted up in the modern style. In a niche at the back of the altar, is a painting of the Ascension, copied from one in Rome, by a tradesman of Riga, who took

a fancy to study painting, and it is really a very creditable performance. The seats of the magistrates in this church are distinguished by their arms; the Schwartzenhaupter have also a seat decorated with their arms, viz. two swords crossed on a shield, surmounted by a negro's head, and the supporters are blacks. Adjoining to this church is a cloister which is occupied as a public school, but at this time it was converted into a public fair, and was crowded with stalls on which was displayed a great variety of articles. The deafening hubbub here, —the din and clattering of tongues in different languages, contrasted strangely with the silence which originally reigned within these walls, when prayer and devotion constituted the sole occupation of their inhabitants.

The next place we visited was the Greek church, which was covered with monuments, images, and paintings. Behind the altar, which is kept shut except during the communion, there is an apartment seen, under a canopy, and into this sanctuary no female is permitted to enter. The books were in the Sclavonian dialect, and we were shown the bread used in the communion, which consists of small rolls kept in a bag, and stamped with the words "Jesus died for the sins of the world." The vessel used for baptism, is very deep and large, and the ceremony is performed by immersing

the infant in water three times with its eyes shut, and ears stuffed. In the sacristy were crowns of tin hung on the wall, which are used in the ceremony of marriage, when they are placed on the heads of the bride and bridegroom.

The church of St. James adjoining this, is built of brick, with a tower, tapering spire, and a roof of copper. That of St. Peter is of considerable magnitude, being 272 feet long by 116 wide. The pulpit is entirely of marble, and from an inscription on it, appears to have been the gift of an individual. It is surmounted by an angel also of marble, holding a gilt olive branch in the right hand; and St. Peter is represented on it in front with a book and keys. There is a candelabrum here of extraordinary dimensions, it being 15 feet in height and 12 in circumference, and it has three stages of branches for lights. From the summit of the steeple, which for its elegance and proportions is considered one of the best structures of the kind in Russia, is a fine view of the city; the bustle on the quays, and the numerous vessels, contribute much to the liveliness of the scene, while the windings of the Dwina, and the islands with which it is studded, form a beautiful landscape in the back-ground.

The horizon is bounded for about two thirds of its circumference with dark forests. Around the town are several hills that appear starting

up from a plain of sand, yet a great part of the latter is now in a state of cultivation. It is desirable that a traveller should, whenever he is able to do so, reconnoitre the places he visits from some eminence, in order to obtain a general idea of the principal features and the bearings of the various parts, before he proceeds to examine them in detail. There is a college here, with thirty-six professors, each of whom has a salary of 4500 rubles. The students, who amount to about 400, are distinguished by a particular dress; and each lapel of the coat has a silver ornament like a branch. Riga is celebrated for its commerce, and, after St. Petersburg, may be considered the greatest port in Russia. During last year the exports were valued at one million sterling. In the course of June only, there entered at this port 149 merchant vessels, and 139 departed from it. Notwithstanding the number of British residents, and the variety of ships that arrive here from all parts of our empire, there is neither a British consul nor any English or Scotch church, the want of which is greatly complained of by our countrymen, and is a circumstance that surely merits the attention of our government. On Sunday it was absolutely melancholy to see the crews lounging about their vessels.

The houses, which are several stories in height, are built of brick, plastered and painted; and

many of them have roofs of sheet iron painted light green, a favourite colour, and the windows open in the French style. The party-walls are of enormous thickness, so that there is little danger of fire extending itself to the adjoining dwellings; and it generally confines itself to the house where it happens to break out. This is a most laudable precaution, and one that deserves to be generally adopted; but in other respects there is little in the interior of the houses that merits imitation. It is the custom to strew the floors of the rooms with fir-needles, a practice that has certainly nothing to recommend it, as it by no means contributes to neatness or comfort, but, on the contrary, occasions dust and vermin; even sawdust would be less objectionable.. Few towns will be found where there are so many doors, windows, and shutters of iron; all secured by enormous strong bars and locks. Although the shops are shut on Sunday, yet the theatre and public gardens are open. The streets are extremely narrow, badly paved, and edged at the sides with wood to prevent their breaking down. There are 3000 troops stationed in the barracks, and the discipline is exceedingly strict; indeed such is the deference paid by the privates to their officers, that whenever they happen to see one of the latter in the street, they immediately stop, and stand quite still until he has passed. Among the military punishments

adopted here is that of running the gauntlet, in which the culprit is made to pass through a file of his comrades, who strike at him with sticks, as he proceeds along. 'Officers are punished by being reduced to the lowest rank; even a general may thus not only be broken, but actually compelled to serve as a private soldier! An instance of this had recently taken place, in the case of a commander who was thus punished for having embezzled monies. He did not however long survive his disgrace, as he died shortly afterwards broken-hearted. The troops are exercised in a field adjoining the barracks, neatly laid out with walks, and having a road in the middle lined with trees.

The police-officers are distinguished by a particular dress, consisting of a dark green coat, buttoned up in front, with a red collar, cuffs, and leather cap, having a bear-skin on top, similar to that of a dragoon, and a belt round it. When any military officer passes the barrier, those who are stationed there turn out in a body and draw up in a line, each holding a halbert, which he stretches out.

It is impossible to figure any objects more curious than the large flat-bottomed boats on the river. These vessels are most rudely constructed, being formed of logs of wood, across which are laid spars. They are not decked, but five enormous beams extend from side to side, to keep them

firm. They have also an arched roof, formed of spars covered with straw matting, which is piled to a great height with hemp. These extraordinary boats, which are from 100 to 150 feet in length, and 40 in breadth, look like large floating masses, and are so top-heavy that one expects every minute to see them upset. As soon as their cargo is disposed of, they are broken up, which is speedily done, their construction being so light; and their owners and crews then return home by land. These vessels are called *Strusen*, and are moored in a particular spot, which is so crowded with them as to appear from a distance like a range of small hills, or like lofty hay-stacks. Droshkas are the only public vehicles here, and before you get into one you have to make a bargain with the driver; there being no regulation as to fares — a circumstance that must always lead to imposition. The dress of the drivers is generally a large coarse box-coat; but some of them have velvet collars and cuffs. All wear long beards, and their necks are completely bare and exposed in front. Each wears at his back a piece of lead, on which is marked his number.

There are many clubs or societies, where, on being introduced, a stranger may dine or sup at an abundantly furnished table for a very trifling expence. These are *not*, however, designated *clubs*, as such a title is most strictly pro-

hibited by an ukase; for the very sound of the term creates alarm and suspicion in the government. In the public gardens are ornamental buildings, and over the entrance of one called the emperor's garden, is put up a notice forbidding persons to walk on the grass, to touch the plants, or to bring dogs with them. Slaves, who are fettered by a block of wood locked round the leg, are employed here to keep the grounds in order. In this garden there are coffee-houses, Chinese temples, &c. and a piece of water. In the centre stands a large tree, planted by Peter the Great, who in fact first planned this spot. The environs of Riga are extremely pleasant, and there are many neat cottages, one story in height, built of wood.

The wolves in Livonia commit great destruction, and a curious document has been published by government, showing the extent of their ravages in 1823.* There is said also to be a rare insect here, called the *furia infernalis*, described by Linnæus. During hot weather, it falls on persons from the air, and its bite produces a swelling which often proves fatal, unless remedies are instantly applied. It is so diminutive as hardly to be visible to the naked eye.

* This is as follows: — they devoured, 1841 horses — 1807 horned cattle — 15,182 sheep — 2645 goats — 4190 swine — 703 dogs — 1243 foals — 733 calves — 726 lambs — 183 kids — 312 sucking pigs — 673 geese.

CHAP. VIII.

Departure from Riga. — Posting regulations. — Appearance of country. — Lake Vidonusk. — Vallmar. — Agriculture and implements. — Stockelen. — Valk. — Uddern. — Arrival at Dorpat.

HAVING seen every thing of interest the town contained, we now quitted Riga, and, on leaving it, passed through a wide street, at the extremity of which is a modern arch, erected to commemorate the circumstance of this place having been preserved from the treachery of an incendiary, who was apprehended and burned, and whose ashes were buried in the very spot where the record of his guilt stands. On each side of the arch are circular reliefs, having an anchor, cornucopia, and other emblematical devices. As a precaution against the imposition of postmasters, we had obtained a list of all the stages, and the number of versts between each; which proved of great service in settling disputes at the different post-houses, as to charges and distances. Were the Prussian practice adopted here, by which the post-master gives to travellers a paper containing the number of miles, and the charges for horses at each station, accompanied with a receipt for the sum paid him, it would most effectually check extortion. We had six

horses, two of which were next the carriage, and the four others in front, and at the end of the pole was suspended a large bell. The rates of posting are less here than in Sweden, and hardly exceed 1*d.* per English mile. The road was sandy, and the country uninteresting; sometimes it was wood, at others heath; and the only building we met was occasionally a solitary cottage without any chimney, the smoke issuing through a small aperture intended as a window.

After proceeding through this barren district for some time, we passed a convent, for females, situated at the side of the road. From an elevation beyond this there was a view of considerable extent, scattered with wood and a few straggling huts; but the picture was dark and gloomy, and the country seemed nearly in a state of desertion, not a creature being to be seen. Yet there was a château, surmounted with a flag and enveloped in trees, with a sheet of water in front. After travelling through this desolate tract, where all was silence and dreariness, without any thing to enliven the landscape, we at length came in sight of Lake Vidonusk, which winds in a serpentine form among the woods that extend to its very edge, and are highly beautiful. The long tract of sand still continued, and in consequence of the rain that had fallen it turned now to a red colour. Opposite the post-house of Vallmar is a maga-

zine of grain, the windows of which were secured with iron bars; and it was guarded by soldiers, who have a house adjoining it. The town of Vallmar appears, from the remains of walls still discernible, to have been at one period fortified. It is a small place, with only one street of any consequence, and the houses consist of merely a ground-floor. The dress of the females in this district bears a very strong resemblance to that of those in Wales, from their having handkerchiefs tied round their heads, with the ends hanging behind, and black hats like those of men. Like the Welsh peasantry, too, they wear neither shoes nor stockings.

In consequence of the great road for many miles being rendered impassable, from the depth of the sand, we took a more circuitous route, and passed the château of Baron Levistant, through whose domains we travelled for some miles. A singular practice is adopted here with regard to the willow-trees, which are exceedingly numerous; their tops being loaded with turf or earth to prevent their growth upwards and to cause them to spread out at the sides. The harrows we saw were exceedingly simple, and reminded us of the expedients adopted by the patriarchal agriculturists; being something like the shape of a gridiron, with shafts on each side, between which the horse is fixed. These shafts reach almost to the ground. The bars of the

body, which are placed transversely, are merely pieces of wood, about four feet in length, and two in breadth. The ploughs have two long shafts or handles like spades, with a cross board at the end: to this are attached two shares, which gradually taper off.

After passing through a most tedious and thick wood of pine, we arrived at Stockelen (which is situate in the middle of it), where we remained all night at a miserable hut. Next day we continued our route through the wood for fifteen miles, till we reached the small town of Valk, which is situate on a river. The fields of rye were far from showing the best husbandry, being interspersed with most luxuriant crops of thistles. Buck-wheat appears to be much cultivated, and is used for making a kind of porridge. We saw many young women, who, while they were tending cattle, employed themselves in manufacturing shoes from the bark of trees. Along the sides of the roads in Livonia and Courland are double posts, chequered white and black. The object of these is not to point out distances, but to show the boundaries of estates, and the names of the proprietors. The country now became open, and we passed clusters of detached houses, built of coarse wood, with thatched roofs and unglazed windows. These buildings are very low, and the roofs project so far as almost to conceal the walls. They had a truly

desolate aspect, and, in fact, seemed to be deserted. After passing Kuikatz, we had a prospect of an extensive country. In this district the children, like those in Savôy and Switzerland, are so disguised, as, when seen from a short distance, to have quite an elderly appearance, being dressed like old persons, while their faces, too, are something like those of baboons. We passed through a few villages, built like ranges of barracks for soldiers, and arrived at Uddern, where, for the first time since leaving Prussia, we saw soldiers, who were escorting deserters.

The postmaster here informed us, by way of hint, I suppose, that about six years ago, the English, who travelled this way, never asked the prices of posting, but paid whatever was demanded; an intimation that, in itself, contained evidence it was his object to impose on us, by exacting more than he was entitled to. We replied, however, that if such was really the fact, times had changed for the better, and we were disposed to pay no more than the regulated price. On leaving this place, we found the road tolerably good. The crops of rye looked well; but the corn was very backward, although it was now the middle of June. The windmills were of a different construction from those in England, the body of the mill not being raised from the ground, but resting immediately upon it. At length we reached Dorpat, and were so fortunate as to meet with a

comfortable inn, the luxury of which, after a long and fatiguing journey in such a country as this, was quite cheering, and forcibly reminded us of the words of the poet: —

> " Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,
> Where'er his various tours hath been,
> May sigh to think how oft he found
> His warmest welcome at an inn."

CHAP. IX.

Dorpat. — University. — Library. — Anatomical theatre. — Observatory. — Female bricklayers. — Town. — Harbour. — Churches. — Departure. — Lake Peipus. — Chudleigh. Gulf of Finland. — Narva. — Superstition. — The Ivangorod. — Stupendous fortress. — Waterfalls. — Apolga. — Strelna. — Arrival at St. Petersburg.

DORPAT, or Dörpt, as it is sometimes written, lies on the river Embeck, which flows from Lake Wosero, about fifty miles off, and loses itself at the same distance beyond the town, in Lake Peipus. It is situated in a hollow; and appears to have been strongly fortified by ramparts and ditches. The situation is cheerful, the air salubrious, and the town itself extremely clean. Although not of considerable extent, yet it may be ranked as a place of some consequence, owing to its university; it possesses, too, some interest, on account of its having been founded by Gustavus Adolphus. Happening to be here during the vacation, we had not an opportunity of seeing the students, or the professors. We were, however, conducted over the greater part of the university by professor Aderkas, a Prussian officer, who gives instructions in military tactics: this gentleman pointed out and explained

to us, with the greatest politeness, every object of interest.

The principal building, a college, which was founded in 1805, and finished about 1809, is a large pile 250 feet (German) in length, by sixty in depth; but independently of its Doric portico, slightly projecting in the centre, it has little pretensions to elegance, the rest of the front being without any architectural ornaments, and the windows quite naked. It is built of brick, coated with stucco, and has a heavy roof of sheet iron. There are thirty professors, who lecture on the various branches of science, and 400 students. Professor Hezell, who was celebrated for his knowledge of oriental literature, and who spoke many languages with great facility, died lately, deeply regretted. Several of the lecture-rooms are neatly fitted up, and there is a large hall where the final examination of the students takes place, preparatory to their receiving their degrees. At the upper end of it is a full-length statue of the Emperor Alexander, in the Roman costume. The expences of this institution are calculated at 600,000 rubles yearly, which sum is defrayed by government. The students do not reside, as in our English colleges, within the walls; but as in Scotland, in lodging-houses in the town, and pay 800 rubles per annum for their board and lodging. A vacation is allowed of one month

during winter, and six weeks in summer. As at Oxford and Cambridge, no theatres are permitted to be opened at Dorpat, lest such amusements might divert the attention of the students from their serious avocations; yet military are stationed here, which is not the case in our own universities. Upon some occasions, however, such as for raising sums for benevolent purposes, liberty is granted to the students to perform certain pieces, under the superintendance of the professors; — an act of humanity which might, with propriety, be adopted in other public seminaries. The library is not in the college, but in part of an old church situate on the ramparts. This now ruinous pile was founded in 1225, and destroyed by fire in 1598. Before this accident, it was reckoned one of the finest structures of the kind in all Livonia. The part now occupied by the library, which was formerly the choir of the church, is 116 feet by 185. In its original form, the building extended 300 feet in length. The number of volumes contained here amounts to about 30,000. Owing to its elevated situation, this edifice forms a very conspicuous object from every point of view, while, in itself, it is exceedingly romantic. Nearly contiguous to this building is an anatomical theatre, in the shape of a rotunda; and not far from it, enveloped in trees, is an apartment where bodies are dissected, and anatomical preparations kept.

The observatory is a small, and by no means handsome building, erected in 1809, on the site of what was formerly the episcopal palace. It stands on a terrace, and is ninety feet long by thirty in depth.* The Emperor Alexander had, this year, made a present of additional astronomical instruments, to the value of 800*l.* The adjacent grounds are ornamented with shrubberies and walks, laid out with taste, and interspersed with seats and buildings, from which are various views of the town, river, and ramparts. Some part of the ditches surrounding the town, have been converted into gardens. In this place stands a monument, an urn upon a pedestal, to the memory of those slain in battle, and whose bones had been removed from a church-yard.

It was in this town that, for the first time, we observed women working as bricklayers, mixing up mortar, and running up and down ladders, with an activity that show them to be adepts in this singular species of *free-masonry;* but this employment must be allowed to be not a very becoming one for the sex; and such a practice ought only to be tolerated in a land of amazons. In the centre of the streets is an insulated building, the lower part of which forms a bazar,

* The Royal Society, London, has lately awarded to the Professor who is director of this observatory, the royal medal, for his catalogue of double and multiple stars.

or series of shops; but from the manner in which the windows are fortified with strong iron bars, it might serve for a prison.

Dorpat has a small harbour, and bridge of granite across the Embeck, consisting of two arches, 230 feet long by 33 wide, with a draw-bridge in the centre. A most pompous—I had almost said impious—inscription, is on each side of this bridge, in the Latin and German languages, of which the following is a translation:—"Stop thy rapid course, O river! By the command of Catherine the Second this mound was erected, and Livonia adorned with this bridge of stone." A short distance below, is another formed of rafts, and houses are scattered along the opposite banks of the river. There are two churches, one of the Greek, the other of the Lutheran persuasion, in this town; the former is surmounted by a dome painted white and green. A society is established for the circulation of the Scriptures. Criminals, who are sentenced to slavery, are employed to sweep the public streets, where they are guarded by soldiers with drawn swords, and their legs are fettered with logs of woods. Whatever other accusations may be directed against the good folks of Dorpat, they cannot be charged with turning night into day, for they betake themselves to their beds about the time of the second course of a fashionable London dinner, and rise

again with the lark. Neither can it be said of the military that they are inattentive to religious forms, it being the custom, before they quit the parade, to lay their muskets across their breasts, take off their hats, and after making the sign of the cross, utter a short prayer. Before quitting this town, I procured some curious models of ploughs, which I intended to present to the English and Scotch museums; but the vessel in which they were shipped, was sunk in her way home.

On departing from Dorpat, the country assumed a barren aspect, hardly a tree being to be seen, whereas in our journey to Dorpat we had travelled through a continued forest, extending some hundred miles. We observed several females working in the fields, dressed in a kind of long chemise, which was tucked up, so as not to interrupt the freedom of their motion; be it observed, however, they wore trowsers; so that, after all, their appearance was less indecorous than that of the nymphs of the opera, who adopt the more illusive attire of tight pantaloons. On their heads they wore a platting of variegated straw, somewhat like a crown; the other extremity of their persons was not so superfluously decorated; for, like some of the brawny daughters of Caledonia, they had neither shoes nor stockings. Altogether they exhibited a very wild and fantastic appearance, and their habitations were quite as uncouth

as themselves, having no other chimney than a small window, through which the smoke was suffered to escape; and frequently it rushed out in such a body, as, at first sight, to lead us to think the house was on fire. In consequence of the substitution of these proxies for chimneys, the houses are quite blackened with soot, and make a most extraordinary appearance. The doors, too, were so low, that no person of ordinary stature could enter these humble abodes, without making a profound obeisance, otherwise his forehead would have paid the penalty of his pride. We shortly after entered the Russian village of Sornou, situate on Lake Peipus. The houses, built of coarse logs of wood, had gable fronts terminating in a point, and stood detached from each other, and the roof projected considerably. The men exhibited long beards, and the women wore coats of sheep-skin, calling to mind the rude costume of the primitive ages. All of them had fine teeth, and the children were remarkably hardy and fair, and ran about without any covering but their shirts. We proceeded along the shore of this noble lake, which resembles some of the extensive waters in Sweden; and from its extent, it might be taken for the sea, it being eighty miles long and fifty broad. At Nennel is a new and substantial inn, with columns in front, the best room looking towards the lake. Preparations were making for lighting

fires on the shore during night, for the purpose of attracting the shrimp fish, which they are said to do. This lake abounds with various flat fish, and there are a number of boats employed in catching them. On resuming our journey, the heat proved quite oppressive, and at noon was almost overpowering, the horses literally streaming with blood, from being annoyed and covered with enormous black flies, upwards of an inch in length. In fact these insects were almost as formidable as the locusts I had observed on the shores of the Dead Sea.* The land about this place is the property of persons of the name of Douglass, sprung from an ancient Scottish family. Both sexes were occupied in cutting patches of grass, with their heads exposed to the scorching heat; their faces were of a copper colour, like some of the Indian tribes, or exhibiting—

"The shadowed livery of the burnished sun;"

and their hair was so dishevelled, as to give them quite an air of wildness.

* In some parts of Russia, the "plague" of locusts is most formidable, and there is often a grand battue after these depredators. Last year, on the estate of General Cobley, on the borders of the sea of Oshakov, they marched in twenty-four columns, and destroyed the crops; when he collected all the peasants on his estate, and those from the neighbouring country, amounting to 500 persons. They were armed with pitchforks, spades, drums, and bells; and thus equipped, they commenced their march against the locusts, which they soon compelled to retreat, and pursued into the sea, where they were forced to jump into the water.

Chudleigh, where the Gulf of Finland came into view, derives its name from the celebrated Duchess of Kingston, to whom it formerly belonged. Here we were again obliged to submit to gross extortion and imposition on the part of the postmaster, not, however, without remonstrating against it, and threatening to represent his conduct on our arrival at St. Petersburg. From Chudleigh the road descends towards the sea, and runs along within a mile of it, where the view of the opposite line of coast is highly grand and striking. Near this place we saw a handsome château, seated at the foot of a hill, whose sides were clothed with plantations; and further on, workmen were employed in improving the road, according to what has been called Macadam's system. There was much pasture land in this part of the country, and great numbers of cattle, which are small, and of a black and white colour. As we proceeded, the landscape became scattered with wood, churches and houses. Shortly after Narva came into sight; and on entering the suburbs we passed a paltry gate, or triumphal arch made of wood, and painted dark green, with a gilt sun on its summit; beneath which was this inscription: —

"IMPERATORI BENEDICTO
PATRI PACIS
ALEXANDRO PRIMO."

On the other side were the arms of Russia.

Next morning our slumbers were broken in upon, by the tolling of a great bell at a very early hour, and on looking through the window, we perceived a lad hoisting a light in a lantern by means of a pulley, in a small inclosed wooden building or booth with windows. Before this several of both sexes were prostrating themselves, making the sign of the cross, and bowing their heads to the very ground, kissing it oftener than we could count. On going to the spot, we found that the object of their devotion was a miserable daub, representing the Virgin and other saints; and before it was a hat for the reception of offerings. Such gross and debasing superstition on the part of the populace appears to be not only lamentable in itself, but in no small degree injurious to the cause of religion, inasmuch as such mummeries excite the ridicule of scoffers, and incline the better informed to question the doctrines of the church on which they are ingrafted. It is to no purpose that both Roman Catholics and those of the Russian church assert that they do not countenance image worship, but regard the representation of saints merely as the means of inciting the mind to devotion—of leading to adore the invisible, through the visible object; for if the populace do actually reverence such images, and not regard them as mere types, then are they to all intents guilty of superstitious

idolatry. As the practice therefore operates so differently from the manner in which it is intended, at least explained, it not only might be dispensed with, but ought to be discountenanced, and be discarded as quickly as possible; otherwise we must presume that its advocates are not so sincere as they pretend, but have motives for encouraging it, which it is more prudent to disguise than to avow. In the strong language of the sacred volume we may say, "Cast ye away every man the abomination of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with idols, and say not, we will be as the heathen to serve wood and stone. *I am* the Lord your God."

This city is romantically situate on a bend of the river Narova, eight miles from its mouth. From behind, most part of it is surrounded by an extensive line of dark woods. Its strong towers and walls show the consequence that has been attached to it as a frontier town; and in the suburbs, or Ivangorod, is a fortress with eight towers, situate on a steep impending over the river. This stupendous structure, which was erected by Ivan Vassilivitch the Great, is at present greatly dilapidated, a circumstance rather surprising, considering the importance of the place as a military citadel; nor is it a little to be regretted, that so noble a pile should be suffered to crumble away. It was here that, in the year 1700,

Charles XII. of Sweden obtained a victory over Peter the Great, but five years afterwards the latter took the town by assault. Although Narva is celebrated in modern history, it has few interesting objects within itself, and may be termed a very dull place. At first it might be imagined that there were no shops in the town, for they are all situate at the back part of the houses, instead of fronting the streets, and therefore make no display whatever. We saw three churches, two of the Lutheran, and one of the Russo-Greek persuasion. The latter has five spires and two domes, features which constitute a striking characteristic of the religious architecture of this country, for in Russia a church without domes would be as great an anomaly as one in England without a steeple; so much more attention do men ever pay to mere unimportant externals, or, in the language of inspiration, to the "outside of the platter," than to the spirit of religion. In many of the streets are pictures in glass-cases, to which the natives pull off their hats by way of salutation in passing them; yet no crucifixes are to be seen here as in Catholic countries. Among the other public buildings may be mentioned, the town-house; a theatre, where performances take place only one month in the year; an establishment for the poor; the barracks, and an hospital. The river flows

beautifully round the town, and falls into the Gulf of Finland; and large vessels arrive within a quarter of a mile of Narva, where the water is ten feet in depth. The general view of Narva, with the river, and its opposite bank, the castle, and a village with bridges of boats, bears a considerable resemblance to that of Cologne on the Rhine. Two of these bridges lead to Ivangorod, a village on the other side of the river. Were these removed, in the event of an invasion, the attempt of a hostile army would be considerably impeded, the current being extremely rapid at that part. The finest prospect of the fortress is from those heights, where the water rushes along with great impetuosity, and in a serpentine course, to a great distance. We proceeded to view the falls, which are about a mile up the river, where the stream is 1000 feet in breadth. They are 478 feet in height; and

> "Dashing in a cloud of foam,
> A hoary mist, they form a ceaseless shower."

A wooden bridge leads to an island, where are several mills for splitting wood into planks, of which stores are here kept. There are also minor falls or cascades, with neat cottages enveloped in trees, which have a picturesque appearance; and altogether this place is truly romantic. On returning, we met a carriage and

four; but this equipage was altogether so *outré* and uncouth, that it was better calculated to excite risibility than respect. The leaders were at least twelve feet apart from the other horses, so that they hardly appeared to belong to the vehicle, but merely to precede it. Besides a driver on the box, there was a postilion, and also a servant behind, in a shabby antiquated livery, with a profusion of old white tarnished lace. But the carriage itself was of most extraordinary construction; it nearly touched the ground, had large windows almost like doors, railings round the top, and seemed so crazy and ricketty, that we every moment expected to see it shattered to pieces. In the neighbourhood of the town are some pleasure-houses, with roofs painted pea-green, a very favourite colour for this part of a building. We were accosted by a female beggar, who, in soliciting alms, fell down and kissed the ground, a degree of servility not to be paralleled elsewhere. At the hotel of St. Petersburg we were accommodated with a spacious room about 37 feet long, but were obliged to make use of it both as bed-chamber and eating-room, although a separate charge was made for each. The cookery here did not convey to us any favourable idea of Russian luxury, for at dinner a dish of boiled beef was served up garnished with partridges. The same incongruous medley too pre-

vailed in the vegetables, peas and carrots being mixed together, and the former were not shelled, but boiled in the husks. The fish however made some amends for the rest of the repast, as the salmon was most delicious.

Resuming our journey the following day, we drove ten miles successively through a forest under a hot sun; and crossed the Looga over a bridge of boats, where at each extremity were stationed centinels, who had trumpets for the purpose of making signals in stormy weather. Jomborg, where we now arrived, is an ancient château of considerable extent, in the form of a semicircle, having another of a similar shape opposite to it, now occupied as a linen manufactory. Further on, we met a band of felons with a guard of soldiers; who were fastened by padlocks to an iron rod extending through the whole line: they were on their march to Siberia, and many of them accompanied by their wives. And here it is important to observe, that the exiles to this desolate region have increased during the last five years from 9000 to 12,000! At one place there was quite an assemblage of peasantry, probably on account of some religious fête; the men were ranked on one side of the road, and the women on the other. But although such an arrangement seemed better adapted to preserve a respectful decorum than to enhance the gaiety of the

meeting, they were all singing and laughing, in the highest possible glee. The females were decked out like Indians, in a gaudy blue robe, without sleeves, and ornamented in front; they wore also a kind of crown on their heads. At the village of Apolge which we now passed through, the houses are of wood, with thatched roofs, and spars laid across them. These roofs extend twelve feet beyond the walls, so as to form a projecting shed, a style of building that tends to give them rather a sombre and melancholy appearance. There is a neat church, with a dome, and a spire adjoining, covered with a composition that sparkles in the sun.

At the next post-house we had to stop half an hour, only to get fresh horses harnessed to the carriage. The costume of the postilion we took was not a little singular, as it consisted of a coarse white sheet, with sleeves bound with red tape, blue cotton trowsers, half boots, a broad-crowned hat, and red sash; while a long beard added to the grotesqueness of his appearance. Some of the houses had a gallery in front, exactly like the stern of a man of war; and it may be imagined, that being built of wood, and having no chimneys, but the smoke issuing from an aperture like the port-hole of a vessel, they must be very liable to catch fire. In fact, so fully aware are the natives of this, that on every other house are rude paintings of ladders, buckets, &c., indicating where these

ar 'cles may be instantly found on any emergency. The windmills are so uncommonly small, that at a little distance they appear like pigeon-houses, and their sails are totally out of proportion to the mill itself. One observation may be applied to all the villages we saw here, viz., that the windows, if they may be so called, were uniformly kept shut, which cannot fail to be most injurious to the health of the inmates. Few children were to be observed running about. In this district the land was poor, and there were no indications of that high degree of agriculture and prosperity one naturally expects to find on approaching a vast metropolis, — no seats or villas, — no signs of increased industry and opulence: — every thing in fact had a monotonous appearance. In some fields were crowds of oxen of a white and grey colour, that had an odd appearance. The peasants had long beards like Turks; their faces were covered with hair, and they wore long shirts over their pantaloons.

At Strelna, which is delightfully situate on a river, is a château of the Grand Duke Constantine. The grounds are ornamented with walks, and artificial lakes, and from every spot there is a prospect of the sea. The palace itself, which is in a very heavy *outré* style, was originally built in 1711 by Peter the Great, who designed to form on this spot a royal retreat,

embellished with canals and fountains after the manner of Versailles. In the reign of the Empress Anne, the building was destroyed by fire, after which the gardens were for some years suffered to fall into decay, till her successor, Elizabeth, rebuilt the mansion after the designs of Rastrelli. It was not, however, until this residence was bestowed by Paul on the Grand Duke Constantine, that the grounds assumed their present form. The orangeries were repaired, others were constructed, a garden in the English style was formed on the site of a wood, and the grand terrace on which the palace stands, was thoroughly repaired and faced with *pudozhky* stone. About the same time, the interior was superbly fitted up under the superintendance of the architect Rusco. On a spot near the orangeries is a linden-tree, of enormous size, which is supposed to be several centuries old. Peter caused a small pavilion to be erected on the top of it, with a winding staircase leading to it; and this was a favourite haunt of the great monarch, who would frequently repair hither to gaze upon the sea, — that element to which he was so much attached. Almost every villa has a kind of pleasure-house, formed of wood, erected at the side of the road, and communicating with the dwelling by a walk. The number of flags too displayed on these residences gave them a festive

air; for it is the custom to hoist one on the roof, whenever the proprietor is at his seat. Among these villas, the most conspicuous for their elegance are, that belonging to Count Vassiliev, that of Baroness Stroganov, that of the Countess Giki, which formerly belonged to Prince Viazemsky, and that of M. Engelmann, in the gardens of which is every species of tree that can be brought to endure the climate, and among them several natives of America. After passing a number of these beautiful houses, which in fact resemble many of the villas in Italy, we came within view of the northern capital of Russia; and passed under a triumphal arch, built after the manner of those at Rome. A short distance further, we came to a second arch, where our podrozhua was demanded by the soldier on guard. After proceeding along several streets, where a dead silence reigned, although it was only ten o'clock at night, we found some difficulty in obtaining admittance to a hotel.

This circumstance caused us to regret that we had not managed better, so as to arrive earlier in the day, when we should have had time to look out for an hotel at a more seasonable hour, whereas now we were under the necessity of going from one inn to another at a very inconvenient time. I would always advise travellers, on going to an inn

where they intend to take up their residence for any time, to make a specific agreement as to the price of the apartments, previously to taking possession of them. We, at length, found our way to the Hôtel de Londres, and after beating up the domestics, agreed to pay for dining-room, bed-room, and servant's apartment, seventy-five rubles, or 3*l.* 2*s.* weekly, and congratulated ourselves on being now fixed under a roof, after the long, and not very agreeable, journey we had performed.

View of the Admiralty, St. Petersburgh

CHAP. X.

St. Petersburg. — Neva. — Marble church. — Statue of Peter the Great. — Manège. — Admiralty. — Naval models. — Remarks. — Curious mode of launching vessels. — Winter palace. — Hermitage. — Palace of St. Michael. — Marble palace. — Academy of fine arts. — Mine corps. — Museum. — Tauridan palace. — Palace of the Grand Duke Michael. — Ceremony of blessing the waters of the Neva.

He who visits St. Petersburg, ought to bring with him some stock of patience, and must lay aside many of those independent ideas that Englishmen are apt to carry into foreign countries; for previously to inspecting the city, it is necessary to apply to the police for permission to remain there; nor will this be granted before he has undergone the most strict scrutiny as to the purport of his coming, the length of time he intends to remain, his profession, the parties to whom he has letters of introduction, and other particulars. All these interrogatories, vexatious, humiliating, and impertinent, as they may be deemed, must be duly answered. After having passed an inquisitorial ordeal of this kind, we were desired to apply to the governor for the certificate necessary on this occasion, without which the landlord of the hotel would not allow

us to remain in it; but, in complying with these regulations, we experienced no little trouble, for three weeks elapsed before we could obtain this indispensable document, during which time we were almost worn out with running from the police to the governor, and from the governor to the police. If, however, it costs much trouble to obtain leave to view this metropolis, a stranger is afterwards rewarded for it, since he finds here a degree of splendour, variety, and novelty, such as hardly any other European city presents.

The capital of Russia has no monuments consecrated by the lapse of ages; and it offers to the antiquarian traveller no reminiscences of long past times. It does not interest us by what it has been, but by what it is; or if we advert to the past, it is merely to reflect that little more than a century has elapsed since the site of this now extensive, populous, and magnificent metropolis was a desert morass. Its ranges of palaces and palace-like structures, its domes and towers, the magnificent Neva branching out into different directions, and flowing round its islands, — the spacious quays and elegant buildings that embank it, all contribute to render this capital exceedingly picturesque. The streets are wide and straight, yet not laid out with that monotonous regularity which we find in most places that have been built almost at once, in-

stead of increasing gradually. The most extensive portion of the city lies on the southern side of the Neva, and is intersected by three canals, the largest and widest of which is the Fontanka.

St. Petersburg is divided into twelve districts, fifty-four sections, and contains 400 streets; and the population may be estimated at 300,000. The quays, which are not exceeded by any, perhaps, in the world, run three miles in length, and throughout the whole extent are embanked by a parapet and pavement of granite. There are seven islands formed by ten arms of the river, and over the canals are 156 bridges; 120 of wood, twenty-nine of granite, and seven of cast iron, which afford the greatest facility of communication between different parts of the city. Among the extensive range of public and private buildings along the quays, is one called the *English Line*, from its being chiefly occupied by natives of Britain. In the Neva, whose transparent waters form a strong contrast to those of the Thames and Seine, this capital possesses a feature in which it is not rivalled by any other city in Europe. Of this every advantage has been taken; and the *coup-d'œil* here presented, of water and architecture, has something peculiarly grand and striking, both to the eye and the imagination. About the centre of the river is a bridge formed of planks of wood laid across boats, seventy feet in breadth, with foot-paths on

each side, and protected by enormous blocks of granite.

In front of this bridge, which may be considered as the focus, and most bustling part of the capital, is a large square. This is partly occupied by the senate, riding-school, and new horse-guards' barracks, which latter contain 1000 men, with as many horses; and at the upper part stands the marble, or St. Isaac's church. This edifice, which, at present, rather disfigures the square, it being only half finished, was begun by the Empress Catherine, who designed to form it entirely of the material from which it derives its name. It occupied twenty-six years to raise the walls, which were founded on a basement of granite; and the building itself was constructed entirely of marble, jasper, and porphyry. On her demise, Paul expressed a wish to complete it; but resolved most inconsiderately to deviate from the plan, and finish it with brick, and it was proceeded with accordingly. This occasioned some severe pasquinades, contrasting his taste with that of the Empress, and asserting that his plans were as brittle as clay, while those of the latter were as durable as marble. No traces of the author of this satire could be found, after diligent investigation. In this state the church now remains a monument of the magnificence of Catherine, and the folly of her successor. It has since been determined to finish it in marble, and

considerably enlarge it. According to the plans of the present architect, Montferand, it is intended to erect three porticos, each of which is to have eight Corinthian columns in front, and three in depth, formed of single blocks of polished granite, with bases and capitals of bronze. The height of the columns will be fifty-six feet, which is ten feet more than those of the portico of the Pantheon at Rome. Besides the principal cupola, there will be four lesser domes, so that, when the whole is completed, it will form a most conspicuous and noble object, not only as seen from the square, but in every view of the city. Hitherto thirty millions have been expended, and eighteen millions more will be required to finish the structure.

While we were here, a vessel arrived from Finland, at the bridge opposite to this church, with two of the columns, and sunk in the river; and apprehensions were entertained that they would be totally lost. Machinery was erected in order to raise the bark; and after several days' operation, and prodigious labour, the columns were brought on shore. A windlass was then placed at some distance in the square, and ropes attached to the masses of granite, under which logs had been placed. Horses were yoked to the windlass, and the columns were thus very slowly dragged to the spot where the others were.

Near this bridge is the colossal statue of Peter the Great, an object which, both from its extraordinary magnitude, and its merit as a work of art, is not only unique, but sufficient to repay the traveller for his visit to St. Petersburg, even did this metropolis contain nothing else worthy of notice. It has, however, been so repeatedly and so minutely described by all who have written on the capital of Russia, that it would be superfluous to enter into any detail respecting it. It may, however, be observed, that admirable as its general locality is, yet its precise site is not the very best; for it is to be regretted that this noble monument was not placed in the centre of the square, where it might have been seen from several streets.

The manège, or riding-school, which has an imposing appearance, is 620 feet long, and 140 broad. The entrance, which is not from the square, but behind, has on each side a flight of steps, communicating with a platform, and a railing in front, where spectators may view the exercises of the cavalry. In the same square is a part of the admiralty, a pile of astonishing extent, its façade being 1400 feet in length. In the centre of this front is a large arch, serving as the principal entrance, and conducting to the dock-yard, and depôt of naval stores, towards the river. On each side of this gate are groups of sea-nymphs, on pedestals of

granite; and above the arch, is a bas relief, representing the foundation of the naval power of Russia. Here Neptune is seen delivering his trident into the hands of Peter, while Minerva, who stands beside the monarch, is contemplating the Neva. In the centre of this composition is a rock, upon which Russia is beheld seated beneath a laurel tree, with the club of Hercules in her right hand, and a cornucopia in her left. On one side of her is Mercury, and on the other Vulcan, who offers her thunderbolts and arms. Tritons, and various other figures, fill up the rest of this allegorical sculpture. Over this relief are four statues; and above these commences the lofty tower, the lower part of which is formed by a gallery of eighteen Ionic columns; and the tower itself is surmounted by a lantern supporting a spire, covered with ducat gold, than which nothing can be more brilliant and sparkling under a clear sun; for it even rivals, in point of splendour, the dome of the hospital of Invalids at Paris. The other parts of this façade are adorned with sculpture, and with columns of the Doric order, as are likewise the other fronts. This magnificent structure was commenced from the designs of Zakharov, a Russian architect, in the year 1801, when Alexander, desirous that the building should be worthy both of its destination and important site (for it terminates the view of the three prin-

cipal streets, viz. the Nevsky, the Admiralty, and the Vonesenskoi Prospects), determined to re-erect it, so as to render it a striking embellishment to that part of the city, it being situate between the palace on the west side, and the senate and Isaac church on the east. On the south side has been formed a boulevard, with double rows of lime trees, with gravel walks or alleys between, which give the whole a lively and cheerful aspect.

Although we were not permitted to enter the dock-yard, yet we obtained permission to view one apartment, namely, that where the models are kept. These amount altogether to 105, and represent ships of every nation, fitted up with brass cannon. One model, particularly interesting to naval men, is that of a vessel which, from its enormous magnitude, and the little depth of water in the Admiralty-yard, could not be floated, but is laid up in a machine or square frame. It is not a little remarkable that, in our own capital, notwithstanding the variety of institutions and exhibitions with which it abounds, there is not a single one set apart for models of naval architecture; and the same observation is applicable both to the Scottish and Irish metropolis. Yet the utility, as well as interest, of such a collection, in a country that relies so much upon its naval force, can hardly be disputed; and, if I may be permitted to do so, I would avail myself of the

present opportunity to call the attention of the Lord High Admiral of England, to a point that has been neglected by his predecessors in office, he having already distinguished himself so highly in every thing that regards our maritime interests.

Notwithstanding the extensive scale and completeness of the building itself, and the great ornament it forms to this part of the river and the city, it may be questioned whether it was altogether politic to place it in the capital, as there is never sufficient depth of water for launching sloops of war, or even ordinary vessels. This inconvenience being soon experienced, it was necessary to devise some remedy. Accordingly, a machine was erected by a Dutch engineer, which, on account of its power to sustain great weight, has been denominated a "camel." This is 300 feet long, about 40 in breadth, and so contrived as to admit a ship in the centre of it. The vessel is then moved down to Cronstadt, which is most unquestionably, and I appeal to all naval men who have inspected this place, the spot of all others where docks ought to have been formed, it being not only most convenient for building, but also for launching ships. In short, it may be said, that it was not prudence, so much as the vanity and ostentation of building its vessels in the capital, that prompted the Russian government to select

the present situation, notwithstanding there is not a sufficient depth of water.

But to return to the models; there is one of the capital, the Neva, and Cronstadt, with its harbour, &c.; and, besides the models themselves, there is a number of nautical instruments, telescopes, compasses, chronometers, &c. and the model of a telegraph on the English plan. Along the walls, too, are arranged spears, battle-axes, and other warlike instruments, with six heads, of both men and women, that had been tatooed. Here likewise are to be found, medals of British heroes, Nelson, Duncan, and others; also American bank-notes, adopted on a resolution of congress, 26th February, 1774, at the value of six dollars each. A variety of birds were scattered about in great confusion; but it is intended to arrange them, so as to form a separate branch of this museum.

We now proceeded to the winter palace, which is almost contiguous to the admiralty. This edifice was commenced by the Empress Elizabeth, in 1754, and finished in 1762. It is nearly square, and has its principal front towards the Neva. The length of this building is 150 feet, and its depth 350. It consists of two orders, Ionic and Corinthian; but is by no means an elegant specimen of architecture, being erected in a very heavy, uncouth style, and although possessing a certain degree of

grandeur, distinguished by no beauty. The apartments are so numerous, that it would be altogether tedious to describe them separately. The principal are, the chapel, the Emperor's apartments, the audience and masquerade halls, and the guard-rooms. The suite occupied by the Grand Duke Michael, consists of nine rooms, to four only of which we could obtain admission. In the saloon were several prints, representing combats with the Mamelukes in Egypt. In another room was the model of a machine for making gunpowder; and portraits of several Russian generals, by Mr. Dawe, an English artist, who has been some years in this capital, and acquired great reputation. There were, likewise, a bust of Moreau, a cabinet of medals, some family portraits; one of the venerable Countess Lieven, who is a favourite with the imperial family; and a plan of St. Petersburg. A volume of Don Quixote was lying on the table. In a third room were views of the different battles in which Bonaparte was engaged in Italy.

We next visited the apartments of the Emperor Alexander; and, passing through a hall, entered a room, from which is a charming view of the Neva. The floor was beautifully inlaid, and the walls were hung with most superb red silk. The banqueting apartment is 227 feet in length, and 88 in breadth. The hall of St.

George, or audience chamber for the reception of foreign ambassadors, is truly magnificent, and has a throne, with a flight of eight steps leading up to it; above which are the Russian arms, superbly embroidered. At the reception of ambassadors, the Emperor does not sit on the throne, but stands in front of the lower steps. What is called the drawing-room of Peter the Great, is hung with velvet, and contains four silver tables, placed before a throne. Attached to the palace is a chapel, where are gravely pointed out, the hand of the Virgin Mary, the head of St. Luke, and a piece of the cross on which the Redeemer of the world suffered! In the suite of rooms that were occupied by the King of Prussia, the doors and floor are of the most beautiful wood; while tables of green Siberia marble, a number of elegant French clocks, and rich hangings, give them an air of great richness. The sleeping-room, in particular, is very magnificent; and the bed, supported by statues on each side, with handsome drapery, presents a most striking contrast to the plain dormitory of His Majesty at Berlin, described in a preceding chapter. We now ascended to a range of rooms above, formerly inhabited by the Empress Catherine, where is a curious Chinese bed, some antique furniture, and two paltry pictures of the Prince of Wales, and Duke of York, when youths, in robes of state.

We could not possibly obtain access to the jewel-room, a circumstance that caused us some disappointment and regret. It would, however, have been perfectly useless to urge our entreaties, as the door leading to it was actually sealed up; besides which, a sentinel under arms was stationed on each side of it.

In showing the apartments, the attendants take care to tax strangers pretty well for their curiosity; for in every other room you are transferred over by your conductor to one of his colleagues, with the remark that he can accompany you no farther, but that if you proceed, another must be your cicerone. In this manner are repeated gratuities extracted from your purse.

Without my entering into farther particulars, some idea may be entertained of the magnitude of this gorgeous palace, when it is stated that it contains 1000 inmates, and in the stables 2500 horses, 584 grooms and assistants, and 600 carriages. Whenever the Emperor is in the capital or its environs, a flag is displayed on the summit of the palace from nine o'clock in the morning to the same hour at night, and taken down when he goes abroad, or on a visit to Moscow. In front of the entrance leading to that part exclusively occupied by the Emperor, is a circular building, with a roof of iron supported by small pillars of the same material. This contains a blazing fire during the winter, for the drivers of carriages to

warm themselves while waiting at the palace for company.

The most splendid of all the palaces, and that which may be regarded as the Russian Louvre, from its rich stores of works of art, is what is denominated the Hermitage; so named by its imperial foundress, Catherine II., as it was here she was wont to escape from the monotony of court etiquette, and indulge in the conversation of her friends. No expence was spared by her in collecting paintings, books, antiquities, engravings, bijoux, &c., so as to render this residence a museum of art and learning. The galleries of the Prince of Condé, Count Bruhl, the Houghton collection, the libraries of Voltaire and Diderot, of Zimmermann, Sherbatov, and that of Oranienbaum, the geographical cabinet of Busching, the cabinet of natural history formed by Pallas*, the marbles collected at Rome by Count Reifenstein, and by Count Shuvalov, with a vast number of other extensive purchases, not forgetting the gallery of Malmaison, which was transferred hither more recently, have all contributed to render this one of the richest depôts

* Catherine was not only munificent, but possessed in a high degree the talent of adding to the value of her gifts by some elegant compliment. On being informed of the sum demanded by Pallas for his cabinet, the Empress replied — "M. Pallas is an excellent naturalist, but a very bad arithmetician. He asks only 10,000 rubles — pay him 20,000."

of the kind in the world. The library contains upwards of 110,000 volumes; the engravings amount to 200,000; the cameos, gems, &c. to 13,000; and the casts from gems to 30,000. The palace itself may be said to consist of three distinct buildings, all fronting the Neva, and connected with each other by corridors or galleries thrown across arches. The oldest of these buildings was erected by Lamotte, in 1765; the second, ten years afterwards, by Feltern; and the third, which is far superior to the others in the style of its architecture, was designed by Quarenghi, and commenced in 1782. Barely to enumerate the most valuable of the treasures here deposited would occupy several pages: let it suffice, therefore, to say, that the lover of art and *virtu*, be his particular pursuit whatever it may, will find ample gratification for it. If, for instance, he be an admirer of the Italian school, he will here meet with in abundance the productions of the Florentine, Roman, Bolognese, Lombard, and Venetian masters; or should he prefer the Flemish, he will have only to turn to those of Rubens, Vandyke, Teniers, Wouvermanns, Berghem, &c. Nor are there wanting many fine pictures by Le Sueur and Poussin, Murillo and Velasquez, with those of other less eminent, but yet deservedly-admired artists of the French and Spanish schools. A very elegant work, in two volumes quarto, entitled "La Gal-

lérie de l' Hermitage," by Labinsky, published here in 1809, contains a selection of the finest pictures, engraved in outline, accompanied with historical and critical descriptions in Russian and French. This production is also interesting from many of the plates being drawn and engraved by Russian artists; and these will bear comparison with the best prints of the kind which have appeared either in England or France.* Among the works of sculpture, is a group of Cupid and Psyche, by Canova; and likewise a Hebe, by the same artist.

A theatre is connected with this palace, which we entered through a gallery, over an arch thrown across a piece of water from the Neva, running into the Moika canal.

On quitting the theatre, we entered the Raphael Gallery, which is upwards of 210 feet long, by 21 in width, and 28 in height. In this exceedingly interesting place are very masterly copies of Raphael's paintings in the Loggie of

* A German work, by Hand, the first volume of which was published last year, gives also a very good description of most of the pictures in the Hermitage, classed according to schools, commencing with the Italian school; the earliest specimens of which are some of the productions of Andrea Mantegna and Giovanni Bellini. The collection of Spanish masters is exceedingly rich; superior, indeed, to any other out of Spain itself, as it consists of no fewer than 106 very choice paintings of that school. According to this work, the number of pictures in the Hermitage and other imperial residences amounted, in 1825, to 4424.

the Vatican, which were executed at Rome by order of Catherine, on precisely the same scale as the originals. Thus do we find here, in renovated beauty, the now mouldering frescoes of the greatest artist the world has yet beheld, and the rich arabesques of Giovanni da Udine. Such a spectacle, almost on the very shores of the Arctic sea, in a region nearly unknown to the contemporaries of the painter, is well calculated to awaken reflections on the intellectual as well as political mutations of states. The time will probably arrive when Russia will possess a school of painting of her own, and what art has lost in the south of Europe, it may regain in the north. This gallery is lighted by fifteen windows, opposite to which are as many superb mirrors; before each window also are two tables, containing, in glass-cases, the mineralogical collections of Professor Pallas and the Grand Chamberlain Narishkin. Here, too, is a marble figure of a Genius, executed by Kozlovsky, one of the best Russian sculptors, and an artist of considerable talent, on the occasion of the Grand Duke Constantine's marriage.

The door at the extremity of the gallery leads into a spacious hall, the walls of which were entirely covered with paintings by our countryman, Mr. Dawe; chiefly the portraits of Russian generals and other officers.

This gentleman attracted the notice of the late lamented Duke of Kent, from His Royal Highness's seeing some productions of his pencil, and by him he was introduced at Aix la Chapelle, to the Emperor Alexander, by whom he was engaged to visit St. Petersburg. This noble gallery, which is 180 feet in length, was destined by His Majesty to commemorate the achievements of his generals in Russia, Germany, and the memorable campaigns of Moscow, Leipsic, and Paris, and is daily receiving fresh accessions from the artist. He has already painted the portraits of about 400 military characters, which present an interesting variety of costume, physiognomy, and attitude; and among them are those of the Duke of Wellington, Prince Kutusov, and Barclay de Tolly. The most conspicuous full-length is that of the Emperor Alexander, in the uniform of the chevallier guards. There are besides many portraits of different members of the imperial family; viz. those of the Grand Duke Nicholas (the present emperor); his brother, the Grand Duke Michael; the present Empress, and her two eldest children, the young Grand Duke Alexander Nicolaivich, and the Grand Duchess Maria Nicolaevna*;

* The same artist has painted another picture containing portraits of the young prince and princess, who are represented as amusing themselves with a swing in a garden. Mr. Thomas Wright, of London, one of our first engravers, is now employed on a plate from this very interesting painting.

also the Grand Duchess of Saxe Weimar (Maria Paulovna, the Emperor's sister); the reigning Prince of Saxe Cobourg; and the Duke and Duchess of Kent. It is proposed to place equestrian statues of the King of Prussia and Emperor of Austria in this hall. *

Another palace, called that of Saint Michael,† is chiefly remarkable for having been the scene of the assassination of that extraordinary character, the Emperor Paul. We could not now obtain admission here, although formerly the very room in which he was strangled was shown to strangers. At present the building is converted into a military seminary.

There is also a stately pile, called the Marble Palace, fronting the Neva, which, in point of elegance, may be ranked next to the imperial one. This building was erected for Orlov, the notorious favourite of Catherine II. It is of a quadrangular shape; the lower part of granite, and the upper of grey, with columns of a reddish marble, and the windows have balconies of gilt brass. This is, although not altogether in the

* This gallery was opened on Christmas-day 1826, with great ceremony, in presence of the imperial family, and a numerous *cortège* of persons of the first rank.

† This palace has been minutely described by Kotzebue, in his work entitled "The Most Remarkable Year of My Life;" from which account it appears to have been fitted up in a very gorgeous style.

purest taste, certainly one of the finest structures in the capital; yet it is to be regretted that the principal entrance is not in front of the river, which would have added considerably to the grandeur and magnificence of its appearance. On the death of Orlov, the palace reverted to the Empress; and its next inmate was the King of Poland, who here ended his days in exile, and whose fate has excited so much sympathy towards himself, and reprobation towards those who were instrumental in driving this inoffensive monarch from his throne. After this it was inhabited by the Grand Duke Constantine, the brother of Alexander; but at present it is uninhabited, and appears quite desolate.

The Academy of the Fine Arts is an institution that has already proved beneficial to Russia, and from which much more may be anticipated for the future. This structure is situate on the north bank of the Neva, at the S. West angle of the Vasili Ostrov, and is 420 feet square. The principal façade, which is towards the river, has a lofty rusticated basement, supporting a Doric order of columns and pilastres, and in the centre is a portal, with a low dome above it, surmounted by a figure of Minerva. The portal itself is decorated with two colossal bronze figures, copied from the Farnesian Hercules and Flora, which were cast by Moshalov. Kakorinov, a native of Siberia, who was, for several years, director of

the academy, and who died in 1771, was the architect of this fine structure, a work, sufficient of itself, to entitle him to a distinguished place among those of his profession, not only in Russia, but in Europe generally. It is undoubtedly a very noble piece of architecture, and one that has few rivals even in the country of Palladio; as the harmony of its proportions, the symmetry of its parts, the regularity and chasteness of the design, and the imposing mass of the building itself, are such as to satisfy the most critical eye. Its site, too, is admirably calculated to display it to the greatest advantage; for whether it be viewed from the quay or the river, the eye can embrace the whole at a single glance. In the centre of this building is a spacious circular court, with a peristyle, the effect of which is exceedingly beautiful. The staircase is deserving of particular attention, being esteemed a *chef-d'œuvre* of its kind; it contains several architectural models, among which are those of some of the public edifices of this capital, viz. the Smolnoi convent, the marble church, the Kazan cathedral, &c. On ascending to the first floor, which contains the exhibition rooms, and those where the pupils pursue their studies, we entered a circular room, in the centre of which is an equestrian statue of a Roman warrior. This apartment opens into a long hall, at the upper end of which is a full-length of the Emperor

Alexander, with a bust of his mother on the right hand, and one of his consort on the left. In some of the rooms were a number of pupils receiving instructions in the arts of painting and engraving. In what is called the recreation-hall, is a model of the head and foot of an equestrian statue of Peter the Great, and a flower-basket most ingeniously and delicately carved out of a block of wood: the latter was executed by Professor Swartz, who has here rivalled, if not excelled, our Gibbons. This institution is under the direction of a president; and the Emperor, the King of Prussia, and Grand Duke Constantine, and other distinguished individuals, among whom was Canova, are honorary members. It is exclusively for the benefit of youths, and for instructing them in the fine arts. The number of boys admitted is limited, and they continue here twelve years. During the first six they are instructed two days in every week, in French, Russian, and German. The rest of their time is dedicated to the arts; but unfortunately their particular talents are not consulted; a circumstance that cannot but operate very disadvantageously. The expences of board and education are defrayed by government. An establishment of this kind was contemplated by Peter the Great, and his widow appears to have made some efforts to carry it into execution. Elizabeth, too, concurred in the efforts of her

predecessors in a design that had for its object the advancement of the empire in the politer arts. With this view she deviated from her original project, restricting this academy exclusively to the fine arts. It was, however, reserved for Catherine II. to improve, and place it on its present footing, by bestowing fresh privileges; and in her reign the building itself was erected. Although the academy cannot be said, as yet, to have produced any great artists, with the exception of one or two architects, it has already sent forth some men of talent. All that money or despotic power could effect, has been done; but artists cannot be raised, like soldiers, by conscription, nor can talents be created by an imperial *ukase*. So far, therefore, from auguring ill for the future, we ought rather, perhaps, to wonder that so much has been accomplished. Art is a plant that will not be made to grow by a forcing system: to be luxuriant, it must be suffered to strike its roots deeply in the soil. It may be watched with solicitude, but we must not injudiciously attempt to accelerate its growth by any process that would ultimately impair its vegetative powers:—we do not rear oaks in a hot-bed. There is an annual exhibition at the academy during the first three weeks in September.

Another object of great interest is the Mine Corps. This institution, which is on a very ex-

tensive scale, is an establishment for instruction in military tactics, and particularly for training officers for service in Siberia. We first entered an extensive hall, afterwards a circular one with desks around it, where the professors were teaching the pupils. This conducts to a spacious apartment, containing several very curious models, which show the operation of mining in all its stages, and that of extracting gold from sand; and there is also a collection of minerals. The library, which is adorned with fine columns on each side, contains a number of coins, precious stones, military weapons, hydraulic machines, drawings of mines, &c. There were, at this time, 309 boys here, who are instructed in the art of mining, and are maintained and clothed at the expence of the government; and each class has its destined uniform. They continue here eight years; but the expence is more than compensated by the advantages which arise to the state from this important institution. On quitting the institution, they receive commissions as lieutenants in regiments, so that they are thoroughly grounded in military manœuvres and discipline, previously to entering the army. Behind the building is a large garden, at the extremity of which is a handsome hospital with a portico, both remarkably neat. In the garden are several subterraneous passages, showing different representations of mines and their strata, with

scaling ladders, and other necessary implements, &c. Corporal punishment is prohibited in this institution, degradation being substituted for it.

The Cadet Corps occupies a large building, which, at one time, was a palace, and is so extensive, that it may, in fact, be considered as a small town of itself. It contains an infirmary, riding-school, theatre, cabinet of natural history, and a church. This seminary is exclusively for the sons of the nobility, who are admitted at six years of age, and remain here till they attain their twenty-first year. The pupils wear a military uniform, and we saw many of them mount guard, form into companies, and go through their exercise with all the accuracy, steadiness, and dexterity of trained soldiers.

In the same quarter of the city as the academy of arts and the mine corps, namely, in the Vassili Ostrov, is a museum, situate at no great distance from the exchange, where we saw a collection of petrifactions, corals, and natural curiosities. Among the latter was a skeleton of gigantic proportions (seven feet in height) said to be that of a domestic of Peter the Great; and likewise the skin itself, which is stuffed, a very unusual and not very agreeable specimen of the species *homo*. There was also a large glass globe, which was brought hither from England. In the upper rooms are figures of Japanese, Chinese, and Laplanders, &c. of both

sexes, attired in their national costumes; also the skeleton of a mammoth, one of an elephant, and others of tigers, bears, and other wild animals. In a contiguous building is shown a globe of prodigious dimensions, in which are a table and seats; and a person might here suppose himself sitting in the middle of the world. This machine, which was the labour of ten years, was presented by the Duke of Holstein to Peter the Great. It is fourteen feet in diameter, and is entered by stairs, yet it appeared to us inferior in point of magnitude to the one exhibited in the royal library at Paris.

The Tauridan palace, built by the architect Storov, and situate in front of the Neva, at the western extremity of the city, is a large brick building covered with stucco, one story in height, with projecting wings; and contains numerous apartments, with a theatre, &c. It has a portico of six columns, with a dome painted green, and a roof of the same colour. We were conducted over the apartments, which, in the language of a Frenchman, are *très-magnifiques*. In one fronting the river, there were, at the time of our visit, a number of benches, which had been erected for the accommodation of the imperial family and the court to witness an exhibition of fire-works, at a fête that was about to take place, and for which a wooden building was constructed in the form of

a semicircle, with twelve columns, and preparations were making on a very extensive scale. In the theatre the floor of the pit had been raised to a level with the stage, and covered with cloth, it being intended to serve as a supper-room. A circular table was placed in the centre for the members of the imperial family, and over it were suspended six crystal lustres. On each side of this was placed a long table, with three lustres over it: these were intended for the ministers of state, and other personages of rank. After we had gratified our curiosity here, we were conducted into a large saloon, adorned with statues, which led to the grand ball-room. Numerous workmen were, at this time, busily employed in ornamenting and decorating it; and when lighted up and filled with company, the *coup-d'œil* must have been most brilliant and imposing. This may be ranked, perhaps, as one of the grandest halls in Europe, and it absolutely beggars description. A magnificent colonnade, supported by nearly forty colossal pillars of granite, with statues between them, produces a degree of grandeur, of which it is difficult to form an adequate idea, even after having visited the most splendid palaces of Europe, so enormous is the scale on which this apartment is erected. Lustres of cut glass are hung at regular distances, and the lights reflected by mirrors of extraordinary bril-

liancy and magnitude. The pillars were, on this occasion, ornamented in a somewhat fanciful, but not inelegant manner, being entwined with wreaths of wood, gilt, representing laurels, and holding branches for lights. The ceiling, too, was decorated with a number of gold and silver festoons. One part of this splendid hall forms a conservatory, with gravel walks, rustic chairs, statues, orange trees, and candelabra in the form of trees. About the middle of the ball-room, boxes were constructed between the columns, fitted up with silk curtains and festoons. In the music-gallery is an organ, with a statue of Laocoon in front. On pacing it, we found this hall to be about 245 feet in length, and 58 in breadth; and it is 50 in height. At present this palace is not occupied, being used only for grand festivals. A banquet given here, in 1791, by Potemkin, to his imperial mistress, has been described as gorgeous beyond any thing of the kind, even in the annals of Roman or oriental magnificence, or even the feast of Belshazzar itself. Yet this minion of fortune, and paramour of royalty*, whose luxury and state ex-

* The titles of this extraordinary man were — Knight of the principal Orders of Prussia, Sweden, and Poland, and of all the Orders of Russia; Field-marshal, Commander-in-chief of all the Russian Armies, Chief General of Cavalry, High Admiral of the Fleets of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov; Caspian Senator, and President of the College of War; Governor-general of Ekatarinoslav and of Taurida;

ceeded those of crowned heads, now lies in a nameless grave, "unknelled, unknown," without the slightest memorial to record the spot where his remains are deposited, nor indeed has the place of his burial been ascertained. His house is in ruins.

The apartments occupied by the Emperor, which are seventeen in number, are very plain, and rather low. His bed is similar to a sofa, with a red leather mattress, and a green canopy and curtains; there is also a shower bath, with curtains like a bed. In the extensive gardens, or rather park, attached to this palace, are artificial lakes, with pleasure boats, but the water is extremely muddy. These gardens, as well as that of the land-cadet corps, are open to the public; yet are not much visited, the favourite rendezvous and promenade of all classes, being the spacious and magnificent quays along the river, which certainly surpass every thing of the

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Adjutant-general and Actual Chamberlain of the Empress; Inspector-general of the Armies, Colonel of the Preobrazhenskoi Guards, Chef du Corps of the Horse Guards, Colonel of the regiment of Cuirassiers, of the Dragoons of St. Petersburg, and the Grenadiers of Ekatarinoslav; Director of all the Cannon Founderies, &c.; Grand Hettman of the Cossacks, &c. &c. According to a statement of the sums the Empress lavished on different favourites, they amounted to 88,820,000 rubles, without including the enormous sums she bestowed on Potemkin, Lanskoi, and Zubov; the three for whom she showed the greatest partiality.

kind in any other European capital. None, in fact, possesses a river flowing through it, at all to be compared with the Néva, either for its beautiful winding course, its expanse of water, or the crystal pellucidity of its stream. This magnificent palace was erected with a degree of celerity altogether unparalleled; and to keep pace with Potemkin's impetuosity, 1500 men worked during the night by torch-light. A canal, which is at the back of the building, was made in a couple of weeks, some thousands of labourers being employed on it.*

In the same street with the Tauridan palace, is the imperial tapestry manufactory, which persons are permitted to enter gratis. It consists of copies from paintings; but it cannot, in any respect, be compared to that of the Gobelins at Paris.

Between the little summer garden, and the Nevsky Prospect, is the palace of the Grand Duke Michael, which has been completed since our visit to St. Petersburg, and of which I am enabled to give here some account, having been favoured with a description of it for this purpose. This extensive and mag-

* Three years ago, there was exhibited for some time to the public, in this palace, a splendid bedstead and canopy, entirely formed of glass. This singular piece of furniture, which also had a fountain on each side for scented water, was intended as a present from the Emperor to the Shah of Persia.

nificent structure, erected from the designs of the architect Rossi, forms one of the most important of the recent embellishments to the capital, as its exterior exhibits an elegance and richness that we do not find in any of the buildings erected before the present century; if we except, perhaps, the academy which has been described in a preceding page. The principal façade, which is of the Corinthian order, consists of a body and two wings, comprising a lofty basement, and state-floor above it. In the centre is an octastyle portico, on each side of which the order is continued, with a series of seven lofty arched windows in the inter-columns: above these is neither mezzanine nor second floor, but the entire space between the windows and entablature is filled up with sculpture. The pavilions at the extremities and the adjoining wings are very elegant. The latter advance, so as to form a court in front of the building, which is separated from the street by a lofty pallisade of exceedingly rich design, and beautiful workmanship. In the interior, every thing that refined taste could suggest, or wealth command, has contributed to render it one of the most complete mansions in this or any other capital; the apartments being fitted up in the most *recherché* style, where floors, inlaid with rose-wood, mahogany and ebony, scagliola walls imitating the most beautiful marbles, lackered doors of birch-

wood, richly carved and gilt, superb carpets, costly hangings and draperies, mirrors of astonishing magnitude, and magnificent ceilings, produce a succession of splendour that would be almost wearisome, did not the skill with which various beauties are made to contrast with and relieve each other, prevent monotony, and offer to the spectator new combinations of elegance and beauty as he traverses through the numerous apartments. The principal vestibule and staircase have a character of grandeur, to which it is not easy to do justice. In this place are two fine statues of Achilles and Hector, by Golberg and Krilov, two Russian sculptors. Both these figures are naked, having only helmets; and the former holds a spear in his left, the latter a sword in his right hand. In a hall, with columns of white marble, the walls are also decorated with a series of subjects, relating to many of the personages of the Iliad; viz. Hector and Andromache, Ulysses and Penelope, Paris and Helen, Achilles at the court of Lycomedes, &c. The ornamental paintings on the walls and ceilings of many of the apartments were executed by Scotti and Vigi. The furniture, which is no less sumptuous than the rooms themselves, is, for the most part, the work of Russians; the sixteen magnificent bronze candelabra, by Zakharov, are particularly worthy of notice, and will stand a comparison with any thing of the kind

by either Italian or French artists. Each of these is twelve feet and a half high, and contains sockets for thirty-six wax tapers.

Near the Tauridan palace is the new Arsenal, over which we were shown by two Russian officers. This very handsome edifice, rebuilt in 1808 by the architect Dimertzov, contains a large gallery, with brass cannon on carriages, 100,000 stand of arms, field artillery, numerous flags, trophies, standards, and suits of armour. There are apartments below where cannon are bored, and where is also a machine for drawing up and suspending field-pieces, and moving them into the court yard.

During winter an odd ceremony takes place, namely that of pronouncing a benediction on the Neva. This religious rite, at which the imperial family are always present, is marked with extraordinary pomp. A temple of wood is erected on the ice, near the admiralty, with an effigy of John the Baptist, and ornamented with paintings representing various acts connected with the life of our Saviour. In the centre is suspended a figure of the Holy Spirit over a hole perforated in the ice, around which carpets are spread. The military are formed into line along the river; the bells of the churches are rung; cannon are fired; while the metropolitan, accompanied by a number of dignified ecclesiastics, enter this sanctum sanctorum. The metropolitan dips a crucifix

into the aperture in the ice three times, uttering at the same time a prayer or ejaculation; and on this occasion St. Nicholas comes in for his share of adoration, as an indispensable part of the ceremony, a prayer being especially addressed to him. The pontiff then sprinkles the water on the people around, and also upon the colours of the regiments. On departure of the procession, a scramble takes place among the crowd, every one striving to kiss the sacred aperture. Nor do they omit, likewise, to carry away with them to their homes some of the water itself, to which they ascribe great virtue, particularly for purifying those infected with certain diseases. This ludicrous exhibition takes place in the month of January. It may be further mentioned, that it is a practice in the Greek church to extend its blessings even to inanimate objects, and it is supposed that the safety or destruction of those depend on the degree of fervour with which the benediction is bestowed *; an expedient which is certainly most admirably calculated to

* It must not, however, be supposed that well-informed persons put the least faith in such absurdities; and as for the vulgar, they are pretty nearly the same every where. — Witness the mass of superstitious rubbish, the farrago of ribaldry, filth, and imposture, annually published in England, in the shape of Almanacks, and that, too, by such a body as the Company of Stationers. But it is to be hoped that they will abandon such a disgraceful traffic, in consequence of the exposé that has lately been made of some of these scandalous and mendacious works.

promote devotion, if we can for one moment allow ourselves to bestow that name on such absurd and puerile mummery, which, while it cherishes abject superstition among the vulgar, produces a no less deplorable hypocrisy among those who are educated. Let us, however, do justice to the Greek church; for though its superstitions almost rival — they cannot surpass, those of Rome, it bears within itself the germ of amelioration, inasmuch as it tolerates every other creed with a liberality which does it honour, and which forms a striking contrast to that spirit of persecution which has so frequently armed the followers of opposite creeds against each other, and prompted them, while professing a religion of peace and good-will, to deeds inconceivable in any but demons.

CHAP. XI.

Club-house. — Theatre. — Exchange. — Imperial library. — Manuscripts relative to English history.—Gostinoi dvor, or Bazaar.— Fortress.—Mint. — Royal cemetery. — Houses and shops. — Priests. — Nevsky Prospect. — Soldiers and military forces. — Intense cold. — Freezing of the Neva. — Barbarity of Droshka drivers. — Equipages. — Anecdotes. — Ex-king of Sweden.

In what is called the "English Line," is a very magnificent suite of rooms for the accommodation of merchants and strangers. The entrance is exceedingly stately, and there are apartments with billiard and dice tables; and others, where are to be found English, French, German, and Russian newspapers; besides which there is also a library. This building was formerly the residence of Earl Cathcart, during his embassy to the imperial court. In this place also elegant dinners are daily served up to such as choose to partake of them, at the extraordinary low sum of two rubles, or 1*s.* 8*d.* per head. Strangers are admitted here on the recommendation of members.

The great Theatre, which was built by Thomond, a French architect, is an extensive structure, with a noble Ionic portico of eight columns, occupying nearly the whole front. There

are twenty-four boxes, and two ranges of apartments above. The imperial box, which is supported by four statues, is in front of the stage, as in the theatre of Berlin. There are no benches in the pit, but armed-chairs lined with velvet, each of which is numbered, as well as the tickets of admission to correspond with them; an arrangement that prevents much confusion and scrambling for seats, since every one, let him arrive at what time he may, is certain of finding the chair indicated by his ticket vacant. This is a regulation that deserves to be adopted in our own country; at least, no more should be allowed to enter the doors than what the pit will conveniently hold; by which means many accidents might be prevented. And although the receipts of the house might thus be abridged by a few pounds on particular nights, it may be doubted whether, on the whole, the managers would not be gainers by such arrangement; as many persons would be induced to go, who are now unwilling to encounter the formidable rush at the doors, and squeeze in the theatre itself. There are two drop-curtains; one a composition representing the coliseum of Rome, Trajan's column, &c.; the other, a view of the triumphal arch erected on occasion of the Emperor Alexander's entry into his capital on July 30. 1814. The orchestra contains thirty musicians. The performers do not enter from the side wings, but

by a door in the back scene, this being supposed to have a better effect. Intimation of the commencement of the performance is given by a person from behind stamping his foot. Notwithstanding its splendour, the house has a gloomy appearance, being lighted only by a chandelier from the ceiling. The door-keepers are dressed in a kind of uniform, consisting of a red coat with a broad cape, and such as we had not seen in any place of the kind in Europe. More attention is evidently paid to persons who appear in military costume than to those in any other dress. In short, a man is every thing in the eyes of a Russian in a military uniform, and, in reality, nothing in a plain coat.

The Exchange, which was built by the same architect as the theatre, forms a most prominent object, and is on a scale of considerable magnitude and elegance. This building, which is quite insulated, stands on the north bank of the river, at the extremity of the Vassili Ostrov, an island between the Great and Little Neva; where it forms a fine object from the Winter Palace. The foundation was laid on June 23. 1806, by the Emperor Alexander in person, and under circumstances of extraordinary pomp. Its form is a parallelogram, surrounded by a peristyle of the Doric order, having ten columns in each front, and fourteen on each side. A noble flight of eighteen steps leads up to the entrance, above

which is a colossal statue of Neptune. At some distance on each end of the building is a magnificent rostral column, adorned with statues at its base, and surmounted by a sphere. These columns stand on the quay close to the river, and between them is a fine circular esplanade, forming a spacious area in front of the Exchange; and at each extremity of this a noble flight of steps leads down to the water. It may be doubted if there be any similar building so finely situate for effect; and the two colossal columns contribute not a little to complete the splendour of the scene. These are sometimes illuminated at the top, and then one may imagine himself transported to some celebrated port of antiquity, guarded by two phari. The interior of the Exchange is exceedingly spacious, and commodious, and contains shops or bazaars for the sale of prints.

The next place to which we directed our steps was the Imperial Library, situate in the Nevsky Prospect; which we were the more anxious to visit, having been given to understand by a person of distinguished rank that it contained a number of very valuable manuscripts, many of which related to the history of our own country, and which we obtained permission to examine. The building, which is rather what may be termed handsome than grand, was commenced in 1795, by the architect Sokolov; but he dying

shortly after, it was completed by Rusco. The interior is exceedingly well planned, spacious, and commodious; and among the apartments is a very elegant circular room, with columns of the Ionic order. Of this collection, which contains 350,000 printed volumes, and 12,000 manuscripts, the celebrated Zalusky library, that was removed hither from Warsaw, may be considered as the nucleus. The classification here adopted is at once simple and perspicuous, the books being arranged in three grand divisions; viz. the sciences, arts, and philology. There are seven librarians, and as many sub-librarians; of whom the former have salaries of 1200, and the latter 900 rubles. These officers are obliged to sleep in the house. The library has of late years received a great acquisition of French works and manuscripts, which had been collected by Dubrovsky, who was in the suite of the Russian ambassador at Paris at the period of the Revolution, when he was enabled to obtain them for almost any thing. The whole of these he sold to government for 60,000 rubles. Two copies of every book published must be presented to this library; and it may be added, that four hundred publications appeared the year before we visited Russia.

The first manuscript I shall mention contains letters from Mary Queen of Scots to Elizabeth: and here it may be asked, where are we to find a

name on the page of history that has excited more sympathy than this unfortunate queen — so beautiful, so accomplished; the victim of her rival's caprice and deep-rooted jealousy? On Mary's escape from the castle of Lochleven, she addressed a letter to Elizabeth from Workington, entreating for an asylum. Her missal, which is here shown, and which is bound in dark blue velvet secured by clasps, consists of 230 pages. The first thirteen have the months and days of the year where particular prayers are introduced, commencing in January with the 30th Psalm. This book is illuminated with subjects from the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary. The first is a picture of the angel Gabriel, and at the bottom of the page are these words — "Ce livre est à moi, Marie Royne."

At the foot of the 137th page, under the prayer commencing with "Spera in Deo requiem eternam," is the following sentence —

> Pour recompense, et pour solare
> E mon amour, et ce ma foix
> rendes mon Ange titulaire
> autant cõme je vous endoye

Again, under the 138th Psalm, "Meus spiritus" —

> En (feinte) mes amis changent leur bienvaillance
> tout le bien qu ils me font est desirer ma mort
> C m̃e mourant, restois en deffaillance
> dessus mes vestements ils ont jetté le sort

Below another, 145. —

Sancta Maria mater Dei pietate plenissima

MARIE R.

In page 159. beneath the "Pater noster," and "Ave Maria" —

Il na partient porter ces armes
qua ceux qui ce dun cœur indomte
come nous nont peur des allarmes
du temps puissant mais sans bonte

On next page,

Bien plus utile est l'heure
que non pas la fortune
puisquel change autant quelle est opurtune

In page 172. under a psalm —

La viellesse est un mal qui ne se peut guerir
E la ieunesse un bien que pas un ne
qui fait qu aussitot ne l'homme est pres du mourir
et qui lon croit heureux travaille d'avantage

Also, in page 81. under another —

Qui jamai d'avantage eust contrair le sort
Si la vie m'est moin utile que la mort
Et plus tot que chager de mes maux l'adventure
Chacun change pour moi d'humeur et de nature

MARIE R.

Come autres fois la renomee
Ne vole plus par l'univers
Isy borne son cours divers
a chose d'elle plus aimee

MARIE R.

xviii. Octobre advertir

And in page 129.—

Un cœur que l'outrage martire
par un mepris, ou d'un refus
e le pouvoir de faire dire
Je ne suis plus ce que ie fus
si nos pensers sont
ne l'estimes pas chose etrange
ils meritent estre a prouve
ayant pour objet un bel ange

In all probability this book and the letters were part of the numerous writings that belonged to the Scotch college at Douay, which was founded by Mary. Indeed I recollect, that, on going over that seminary with the Rev. Mr. Farquharson, the head of the college, on his visiting it after being banished to this country during the Revolution, he assured me he had had in his possession not only the original prayer-book of Mary, but a table clock belonging to her, the first that had been made; besides the manuscript poems of Ossian, and many other interesting papers, which he had not seen since the Revolution. A full-length portrait * of her, which had been

* This noble picture was set up in the dining-hall of the college; and it is a singular circumstance, that, in the title-deeds, it is directed, that to whatever place the seminary shall be removed, this picture was to go with it. I afterwards saw it in the Scotch College at Paris, where it will remain till it is seen if the College of Douay is to be restored; in which event it will be replaced in its former situation. It is said, that the Queen's confidential secretary, Babington, had also an original full-length portrait of her, by Frederico Zucchero,

concealed in a chimney during that disastrous period, and which was copied from a miniature given by the Queen to Miss Curl, one of her maids of honour, at the time she was on the scaffold, was all that remained, every thing else having been carried off by the mob, and committed to the flames.

With respect to the letters, which are numerous, the most important of them are those that passed between the Scotch and English queens, which may be regarded as "planks saved from the deluge of time." With very great difficulty I obtained permission merely to take their dates. These documents, I apprehend, cannot fail to excite interest, both as having been written during the captivity of Mary, and as being now given to the public for the first time.

One letter is dated Westminster, 3d March, 1486, from Henry VII. of England, "celui qui aparavant s'appelloit le comte de Richemont qui dessit Richard II. usurpateur de Roy^me^ d'Angleterre, et ensuit pacifia les differences entre les maisons de Lancaster et York, au Roy Charles VIII., le priant de leslargissm^t^ d'un de ses sujets de

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and one of her son James, which he gave to the Drapers' Company in London; and the veil which she wore on the scaffold is in the possession of an English Baronet, who claims a descent from Her Majesty. This was given him by Cardinal York, the last branch of the Stuart family, who had long preserved it in his chapel as a most sacred relic.

l'Isle de Silly, mene prisonnier a Dieppe." There are also several letters of Queen Elizabeth, written in French, and addressed to the Queen mother of France, dated July, August, and October, 1568; April 9. 1599; another, dated February, 1596, to the Prince of Portugal; 24th August, 1594, "portee, par le Chevallier Williams, au Sr. de Vidausau, Gouvernier de Calais, pour scavoir en quel estat est sa place, à fin de la secourir, si les Espagnols y veulent entre prendre quelque chouse, comme il se pourra faire, suivant ce qui lui en ont ecrit le Prince de Conty, Comte de St. Pol, &c. apres le malheur de Bourleus." And to the most Christian King, 21st September, 1597. There are also seven others from her Majesty, without date.

Letter, signed "Fille Magdelen de France to the King of Scotland."

Do. "Marie" to the King of France "mon beau frere," October, 1566.

Do. do. "29th May, 1568, from Maria Stewart Reine d'Ecosse prie Kartell la Reine de considerer le Sr. de Flamin son cousin."

"Tutbery, 30th August, 1570, de la Reyne d'Ecosse a la Reyne Mere."

Same day, "De la Reyne d'Ecosse a Sr. de la Monsieur la Motte."

Do. "De la Reyne d'Ecosse au Roye."

May 1568: "De sa prison, la Reine d'Ecosse

mande a la Reine d'Angleterre quelle na point de liberte descrire que pendant qu'on disne et quand ses gardes dorment, car leur filles couchent avec elle."

In another, "June 26. 1568, de Karlile" (Carlisle), Marie Stewart mande au Roy France comme ell est gardee par le commandement de la Reine Angleterre, et quelle crainte d'etre ex apres plus estroitment, non obstant quelle ayl envoyé le Sr. de Flamin pour obtenir conge d'aller en France, il na peu passer Londres; ce qui l'oblige, dennoyer le Sr. Douglas, pour faire rapport au Roy, de sa prison, sortie, et retraite en Angleterre, lequel elle recommande comme un fidèle serveteur, lui ayant sauve la vie au peril de la sienne."

Letters of King James, 24th October, 1597.

Do. 1590.

Do. 1603 to the King of France.

Anne R. to "ma bonne sœur la Queen Regent." — No date.

Do. do. — No date.

Paris, 6th January, 1649, Henrietta of France to the ambassador of the King, "Mon Neveu."

Do. Louvre, 6th January 1649, to Monsieur de Grignon.

Do. James Huntington, 1605, and Falkland, 24th June, 1597, to the King of France.

These are a few of the many original letters to be found here from those distinguished per-

sonages. Several of Elizabeth's are dated from Richmond, Hampton Court, and Westminster, to different ambassadors. The whole of them are written in old French, with many contractions, which render them extremely difficult to make out correctly. It is to be hoped the whole series will be given to the public by some competent editor, as they relate to a most important period in the annals of the two kingdoms.

The most striking of those I could select are given in the Appendix.

As connected with the above, it may here be observed, that, in the college for foreign affairs at Moscow, are also preserved many letters that passed between Elizabeth and the Tzar Ivan Vassilivich, respecting the commercial relations of England and Russia, as well as on other topics. In some parts of this curious and interesting correspondence, the Queen assures the Muscovite, that he may rely upon finding an asylum in England, should any revolution endanger his stay in his own dominions.

We found in this library a great variety of curious old pamphlets in the English language, particularly one with the account of an entertainment "by Gentleman Mercer unto my good friend Master Humphrey Martin, Mercer, given untoo the Queen Elizabeths Majesty, at Kennilwoorth Castel, Warwick-shaer, in this somerz progress, 1575, signified from a freend officer attendant in

the coort unto his frend a citizen and merchant of Lundon." It is thus entitled, "Book of Entertainment by Leicester to Queen Elizabeth, wherein the person writes his friend, of whose incomparable cheering and entertainments I will shoo you a part here." After a most minute description of the splendid banquet and pageantry, it contains "All the letters that mention her Majesty, which ha'er I put capitoll for reverens and honor, wear thear made in golld."

Among the number of old English books here, are many sent as presents from British subjects. A variety of Voltaire's manuscripts were confusedly huddled together, without having been arranged in any order. There were also several splendidly bound folios in French, many of which were manuscripts. Much jealousy was shown as to my taking any notes, and I was expressly desired not to copy any manuscripts, in consequence of which it was with the utmost difficulty I contrived to make any extracts, being very narrowly watched.

In the Nevsky Prospect is also the Gostinoi Dvor or bazaar, an extensive pile of building, of a triangular form, consisting of two stories crowded with shops. The fortress, which is situated on a small island on the north side of the Neva, ranging opposite the winter palace and summer gardens, near the spot where a branch of the river, or the Little Neva, divides

the Vassili Ostrov from the Petrovskoi Ostrov, and which was founded by Peter the Great on May 16. 1703, may be regarded as the germ from which the now splendid and extensive capital has expanded itself; it may also be termed the "Tower" of St. Petersburg, both as being the oldest part of the city, and as consisting, like that of London, of a mass of buildings. This citadel is fortified with ramparts and batteries; and contains a spacious square with barracks, the cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, the imperial mint, and a great many other edifices.

The mint is under the superintendence of a Scotchman; but the workmen not being employed at the time of our visit, we were deprived of the opportunity of witnessing the process of coining, a fire having broken out and demolished part of it. We learned, however, that it is performed by means of steam-engines as in England.*

* When the Emperor Alexander visited the Mint, in London, he observed that it was altogether impossible for the workmen to rob that of St. Petersburg, as they entered into it, worked there, and departed from it in a state of nudity. But in this His Majesty must have been mistaken; for notwithstanding every precaution, as necessity and avarice are the parents of invention, a robbery was discovered to have been committed by the men, although they were stripped to the skin. The expedient to which they resorted certainly showed some degree of ingenuity; since they killed rats, stuffed them with gold, then threw them over the walls, and after they had left the place, on finishing their work, picked up their prize.

The cathedral which I have just mentioned as within the walls of the fortress, may be considered as the Westminster Abbey of this capital, since it contains a royal cemetery with the tombs of the imperial family. The coffins are above ground, and ranged on both sides of the altar. The Russian arms and initials of the deceased are on each, surmounted by a coronet, and embroidered palls are thrown over them. These receptacles of mortality are in the following order; on the right are the coffins of Peter the Great, Catherine I., and Catherine II.; on the left the coffin of Paul, to which have since been added those of Alexander and his consort. *

The gold coined, from July 1. 1825, to May 31. 1827, amounted to 10,968,603*l.*, exceeding any quantity that had been previously at one time ready to send forth. That of silver coinage, between the same period, amounted to 1,000,599*l.* It may be proper to add, that the coins are not composed of a spurious or base metal; and that in point of fineness, the standard must not be deviated from, one-sixteenth of a grain in the pound Troy, nor in weight, 20 grains in the pound troy.

* The obsequies of this monarch were of the most gorgeous description. Of the funeral procession some idea may be formed from a work published at St. Petersburg, showing the whole arrangement of the *cortège*; nor was the lying in state less magnificent, for the body was placed on a superb catafalco, beneath the dome of the Kasan church, where it remained for six days and nights, attended by a guard of honour, and surrounded by seventeen hundred tapers burning constantly the whole time! The service for the dead was also performed twice every day.

With respect to its architecture there is nothing striking in this church; but fine crystal lustres are suspended from the roof. On each side of the altar are relics in glass-cases; and in front of it are specimens of turnery in ivory, surrounding the representation of our Saviour. Stands of colours, staffs, batons, and keys of cities and fortresses taken by the Russians are deposited here, and these trophies amount to no fewer than 1670 in number. Many of them are stained with human gore, and the prints of bloody hands are still plainly visible, showing them to have been retained with a firm grasp. We ascended the top of the tower, which is 245 feet in height, and from which the prospect is truly grand, for beneath us lay the beautiful Neva, and the city, with its ranges of palaces, and numerous domes and spires.

The hut or residence of Peter the Great is an object deservedly venerated by Russians; nor is it less attractive to travellers, especially when it is considered that this is the first rudiment of this now magnificent capital. It is formed of wood, and has been covered with a building to protect it from the weather. The bark said to have been built with his own hands, by this extraordinary man, is in the shape of a skiff or skuller. It is now broken; and it is certainly little creditable to the patriotism of the Russians, that so venerable a relic has not been preserved with the care it deserves, and deposited in some

museum. At one period it was at Moscow, and was removed here in 1723. On beholding these memorials of one of the greatest characters that ever sat upon a throne, we were tempted to exclaim with the poet,

> " Immortal Peter! first of monarchs! he
> Who spurn'd the slothful pomp of courts,
> And roaming every land, in every port,
> His sceptre laid aside; with glorious hand,
> Unwearied, plying the mechanic tool,
> Gather'd the seeds of trade, of useful arts,
> Of civil wisdom, and of martial skill."

The houses of St. Petersburg are in general four stories high, with roofs of sheet iron (painted green and red), so that during a heavy fall of rain, the noise is similar to peals of thunder.* Many of the fronts are decorated with columns, and also painted, yet so far is uniformity of hue from being studied, that it is commanded by the police that no two adjoining houses should be of the same colour. It may be observed that incense is burned in the staircases during morning, to throw out a perfume. Considering that this is the metropolis of so vast an empire, the shops must be allowed to make a paltry appearance, especially when compared with the display of those both of London and Paris; neither do they make such a brilliant appearance after dark, as those

* A patent has just been obtained by a person in London for making a fire-proof roofing, of thin cast-iron plates, so as to lock into each other and carry off the rain.

of the latter capitals. Many of the principal shops, or rather show-rooms, are up stairs, and several under ground.

It is remarkable that, notwithstanding this city is visited with lightning, as was the case to a very great degree when we were here, there are no conductors on the roofs of buildings.* Chimnies are not cleaned by means of climbing-boys as in England, but after the mode in Scotland. The sweep stands on the top of the chimney, and introduces into it a large brush attached to a small iron ball or bullet, which drops down, and which he draws up and down, so that the soot is soon cleared away; yet the pressure of this apparatus against the sides of the chimney, must injure it, especially if it is built of brick. If such a method was introduced into England, it would entirely supersede the necessity of making use of climbing-boys at so many risks to life and health, and humanity calls for the adoption of it. Every house has a gate-way for carriages, whereby the foot-path is continually interrupted; to say nothing of the danger arising from the steps leading to the lower part of the houses, which greatly encroach on them. In the best parts of the town,

* Herodotus proves that the ancients knew the power of attracting lightning by means of iron instruments, and that the Thracians disarmed heaven of its thunder-bolts by throwing arrows into the air, and the Hyperboreans by shooting into the clouds sharp-pointed pikes of iron.

the streets have sewers arched with brick, at the depth of two feet below the pavement, with a descent to the Neva, and grates at the top for mud and water to pass through. This is an improvement which has been evidently accomplished at great expence, and much benefit is derived from it during an inundation, as the water is let off more quickly. The gutters run in the centre of the streets, as in the French capital. The city is badly lighted, and the lamps are exceedingly clumsy. Watchmen are stationed day and night in sentry boxes; and these guardians of the peace are effectively armed with halberts. There are no wells; but the necessity for these is superseded by the excellence of the water of the Neva, which is used both for drinking and for cooking. With some constitutions, however, it is said to act as an aperient; it is, therefore, advisable for a stranger not to use it as a beverage, without mixing it with wine or spirits, or, at least, not without having it previously boiled. For some days we found ourselves disordered in consequence of drinking it without this precaution.

It rarely happens that females of the upper classes are seen in the streets alone, or arm-in-arm with their husbands. Women of the town pass under the name of *servants*, and are taxed by the police. Even this unfortunate class keep up some appearance of devotion, and when they

receive their visitors, cover their sacred images, and extinguish the lights, which are, at other times, kept burning before them. Nurses, who carry children abroad, are distinguished by a particular dress, especially that which they wear on the head: this is a red cap, with a high tiara in front, richly embroidered with gold lace.

The priests seem to be generally brawny figures, and with dark complexions. They wear broad hats like those of Quakers, and bushy hair hanging over their backs; to judge, also, both from their stature and corpulency, they do not appear to be much addicted to abstinence and mortification; but, on the contrary, bear in their persons evidence of their enjoying the good things of this life.

The Nevsky Prospect, or Perspective, may be considered as the Bond Street, or, from its great extent, as the Oxford Street of St. Petersburg, it being upwards of two English miles in length, and of great width. It forms a great thoroughfare to different parts of the city, and is the public promenade for carriages, and the place where all the fashion of the capital is displayed. The houses here are very irregularly built, many of them being lofty, while others are mere huts, not more than from ten to fifteen feet in height. There is a large warehouse on the first story of a building in this street, for the sale of goods manufactured in England and Scotland; and such

has been the success attending this establishment, that three persons, who have successively carried it on, have realised very handsome fortunes.

The General Post-office contains several apartments, where are clerks who speak all languages. The merchants enjoy the privilege of depositing their letters, and receiving those addressed to them, earlier than other people. A person with a drawn sword stands at the principal entrance, another within it; and we remarked a mute nun stationed at one door, in a long black robe, with a painted board in her hand, soliciting charity. Although it may be presumed there can be only one opinion as to the sacredness of letters passing through the post-office, yet in this country it appears to be otherwise. Curiosity and jealousy are so vigilantly alive as to correspondence with foreign parts, that letters are often opened without the slightest degree of ceremony, and afterwards receive the office seal without any apology being considered to be necessary for this breach of public faith and trust; indeed such a violation is often known to extend to the letters of the ministers themselves, as also to those of persons of the highest rank; and should they touch on any thing respecting political matters, the writer is in danger of being sent on a trip to Siberia. One good regulation here, for checking imposition, and ensuring the regular delivery of letters, is to

enter in a book the name of the persons to whom they are addressed; and who, on receiving their letters, sign their name opposite to the address. I would advise travellers to be extremely cautious as to the subjects on which they write, and altogether silent as to politics; and might further suggest the same thing to correspondents in England, as they may else involve their friends in great trouble.

One custom observed among the military, struck us as unnecessary in itself, and most annoying to the soldiers: for instance, in the neighbourhood of any place where a company of soldiers are stationed, the guard is ordered to be on the look-out, and see whether any military officer be coming. Thus, suppose a soldier stationed at the bottom of the Hay-market, another at Charing Cross, a third in Parliament Street, and a fourth on Westminster Bridge, to give a signal to the guards that a general, or superior officer, is proceeding down the Hay-market, or from Westminster Bridge, whether he is on foot, on horseback, or in a carriage, on his passing the guards, the whole company would turn out, draw up into line, and salute as he passes. We had frequent opportunities of witnessing this piece of military etiquette, as the windows of our apartments looked into the Admiralty Square, one of the most frequented parts of the town, it being at the extremity of the Nevsky, Admi-

ralty, and Vosnesenskoi Prospects, and many other streets, which here converge to a point. Numerous officers are continually passing, when the guard invariably turn out, and make a salute with as much form as at a review. The soldiers are often disturbed during their meals, and stand chewing the food they have just put into their mouths, not having had time to swallow it. The out-posts, if they may be so called, must not only be vigilant, but the soldier on guard must also keep a sharp eye to catch their signal, otherwise he is subject to punishment.

The uniform of the guards is dark green, with red cuffs and capes, large swords, broad white belts, leather caps fastened under the chin, and a long upright feather in front; white pantaloons during summer, with gaiters of the same colour, and red leather straps on the back of their muskets. In their gait they are more stiff and formally erect than the Prussians. Some of the regiments bear names not a little singular, such as "Ishmael, Simeon, and Resurrection."

Many natives of Great Britain are to be found, not only in the army, but also in the navy of Russia. The pay of a private is 3 rubles 13½ copecs, per month *; that of a grenadier is 21½ copecs more, besides clothing and boots.

* During the period of Edward III. our soldiers received 6*d*. per day; which may be considered equal to about 5*s*. of our present money.

An inferior officer has 5 rubles 22 copecs; and some are allowed 22 rubles yearly, as table money, with the addition of servants and quarters. The pay of a colonel is 2200 rubles; that of a major 800; and they enjoy the same privileges as our members of parliament, inasmuch as they cannot be arrested for debt. With respect to the actual force of the Russian army, it is exceedingly difficult to ascertain the number of military, much mystery being affected respecting this point, although they may be computed at above one million of men. Not one half, however, are to be considered as either positively serving, or as capable of being called immediately into action. The imperial guards may be calculated at 40,000. The Russians have an aversion to docking the tails of horses, regarding this appendage to the animals rather as a natural ornament, than a superfluous excrescence; we, on the contrary, think, that nature blundered when she gave them this additional weight to carry, and humanely relieve them of the burden. A number of these animals were at one time imported from England, for some regiments; but unfortunately happened to have short tails. In consequence of this, in order that they might correspond as much as possible with the Russian horses, the Emperor once ordered false tails to be fastened

to them, some of which actually dropped off during a review, to the no small merriment of the spectators, and not without some sarcastical reflections on English taste.

His Imperial Majesty was often to be seen on horseback inspecting the troops, and also driving about in his droshka, like a private individual, without even a single attendant, except the driver. Indeed he used frequently to walk alone in the streets, and along the quays, in the dress of a private gentleman; and would return the bow of any one who saluted him. His consort, too, affected little pomp, leading a most retired life; nor did she ever interfere at all in state affairs. We frequently saw her riding in a plain carriage, with few attendants, being unwilling to attract notice.

In so high a latitude as that of St. Petersburg, the frosts are, of course, exceedingly severe; and when they set in, the Neva is blocked up for months. Experience has proved that, since 1718, the earliest period this river is frozen over is the middle of October; and the latest, the end of December; while it never breaks up before the 22d of March, nor later than the 30th of April. Since 1741, the greatest degree of cold experienced during winter, is 33°, and the greatest heat in summer 27°, Reaumur. The cold, in fact, is so intense, that icicles may be

seen on the beards of the men, and the very spittle almost freezes on their lips.*

It is supposed that, upon an average of ten years, there are only 97 bright days in each; 104 of rain; 73 of snow; and 93 of unsettled weather; and it has been known that eighty storms have occurred in the course of a single year. To this may be added, that the shortest day is only five hours and a half. As soon as winter begins to set in, double windows are put up in the houses, and their joints are covered with pasted paper. During the most severe frosts, hardy females may be seen for hours standing at apertures in the ice, washing linen. At this season, a person may imagine himself here in two different climates; in a southern or greenhouse temperature within doors, from the prodigious heat kept up by the stoves in the apartments; and abroad, in all the rigours of a polar district. It may be added, that in consequence of the variety of this climate, a particular

* Instances frequently occur of the face being frozen, and if the part be not rubbed with snow, so as to restore circulation, very serious consequences may ensue, especially on incautiously entering a warm room. The person himself is not sensible of any particular pain, nor would he be aware of the circumstance if not informed of it. A friend of mine, not wishing to run the risk of suffering for want of being timely apprised of his danger, used, on going abroad in very cold weather, to carry a small pocket-mirror in his hand, that he might see whether any white spots appeared on his face; for whenever they do, the flesh is frozen.

arrangement is made in most of the churches. For instance, the ground floor contains a warm, and above is a cool apartment; in the former, service is performed in winter; and in the latter, during summer. It is in winter that this capital presents the most curious scene; for then there is both sledging and skaiting, as far as Cronstadt; and quite a fair on the river, where the favourite amusement of the icebergs, or "Russian mountains," forms a striking feature in the gay, busy scene. Should a traveller happen to be here at this time, let me advise him to be extremely cautious in being on the ice at a late hour, otherwise he may find a watery grave, not from accident, but from the atrocious villany of the Droshka drivers, who have been known to murder those who engage them. Incredible as it may appear, they have large holes bored in the ice, into which they contrive to upset the passengers, so as to drown them, for the purpose of plundering them of their clothes and money. This fact is altogether beyond contradiction; and a remarkable instance occurred only last year. One of these wretches was discovered, who had been guilty of many crimes of this description, for a length of time; and at last he confessed his atrocities, and was convicted.

The Droshka, or, more properly speaking, Drozhki (from Doroga, a road), is a vehicle, consisting of a bench, with springs under it, rest-

ing upon four small wheels: it is hung very low, and without any cover. Immediately behind the horse, the Izvoshtshik, or driver, sits on a low seat, so that the animal hinders his view. These vehicles are constructed of various shapes: some have elbows, or projecting boards, to recline on, and a foot-board covered with leather flaps, and there are seats for persons on each side, as well as at the back; others have a roof, and many have only backs. They are very light, having no sides; and many of them are ornamented, and painted in rather a gay style. In general, they contain only two persons comfortably, besides the driver; but their principal advantage is the facility with which you can leap out and into them, and the speed at which you are driven. The horses are small, and the drivers shabby, with a plate of lead on their backs, and a number; nor are they, as it may be supposed, distinguished for cleanliness, so that their smell is most offensive; contrasted, therefore, with these fellows, those who drive the common stages into London may be considered perfect gentlemen; and indeed English coachmen are far neater in their appearance, and also far better informed as to places and objects on the roads, than those of any other country I have visited in the course of my various travels. A common droshka may be hired for one and a half ruble, or 1*s*. 3*d*. per hour.

Every one here, who wishes to be thought *comme il faut*, or has any pretensions to fashion, drives four horses; for a carriage and pair is considered a very mean equipage, and obtains no more respect than a hackney coach in London. Hence one of the former description is quite indispensable to those who visit among persons of rank; yet, however elegant the carriage may be, the postilions and coachmen are generally dirty in the extreme. The latter wears a long beard; while his face is enveloped in hair, which is considered a great ornament, and his visage quite obscured by his hat. The leaders are placed at an extraordinary distance from the other horses, and a young urchin, as dirty as a lamp-lighter, sits on the right horse, wrapped up in a coat that might contain three persons of his size; his hat, also, almost covers his face; and a dirty sash round his waist, a shirt open at the neck, and wide boots — ignorant of either Warren's or Hunt's "matchless" blacking — complete his costume.

The horses themselves look as uncouth as their drivers, neither their manes nor tails being trimmed or cropped. Respecting the harness, as little can be said in its favour; the traces being sometimes of ropes that would absolutely be a disgrace to the worst hackney-coach in London. The footmen behind are greasy and dirty, tricked out in shabby finery, that looks like

some of the cast-off wardrobe of a country theatre. The carriages are hung very high, and make a jingling offensive noise; but are certainly well adapted to suit those who like to have their bodies well shaken. In short, with regard to their equipages, the Russians seem to have not the least idea of good taste or propriety; for, provided there be but a number of horses and attendants, it is no matter how slovenly, miserable, and grotesque the whole set-out be. On the contrary, if an Englishman drives but a gig, he likes to have every thing in perfect order; and be his house ever so small, he chooses to have it furnished throughout in good taste; should he, also, keep only a single servant, he will not suffer him to wait at table with either a dirty shirt or face, uncombed hair, unbrushed coat, or darned stockings. The combination of paltry splendour and poverty, or, at least, the signs of it, so common on the Continent, appears at once disgusting and ludicrous in our eyes. No doubt, a carriage and six has something imposing in the name; but such an equipage in Russia is very different from what it would be in England.* Instead, too, of finery compensating for squalidity, when we find these together, the latter invariably destroys all

* Private carriages with six horses were introduced into England in 1619, by the Duke of Buckingham; and by way of ridiculing this piece of vanity, the Duke of Northumberland appeared with eight.

the effect of the former. It may be all very well to display diamond rings, but then soiled hands and dirty nails are by no means improved by such an addition: on the contrary, they would have the appearance of being doubly filthy. It will be some time, it is to be feared, before this nation studies and adopts the *simplex munditiis*, which, although but a negative merit, is one for the absence of which no finery can atone.

Many anecdotes might be introduced, to show the wonderful imposing effect of driving with four horses.* The following, however, may be quite sufficient: a naval officer told us, that wishing to have an audience of the Minister of Marine, he proceeded to his house in a plain dress, and in a carriage and pair; when he was at once told he was not at home. It instantly occurred to him that he had omitted to come in proper state. He accordingly returned home, put on his uniform, ordered two additional horses, drove off again, and was politely requested to walk up stairs into the presence of the great man.

* About five years after coaches first began to be used in England, in 1605, one Anderson, a native of Stralsund in Pomerania, offered to bring from that country to Scotland coaches and waggons, with horses and servants to attend them, provided a privilege was conferred on him of keeping them; and a royal patent was granted to him accordingly for fifteen years, to keep coaches to run between Edinburgh and Leith. So that it would appear such conveyances were then intended only for these towns.

The Cossacks are to be seen scampering along, mounted in short stirrups on their shabby small horses, which appear never to have felt a currycomb. I may, indeed, remark generally, that the Russians pique themselves upon an ostentatious show of grandeur in this respect, as well as in their entertainments, and their crowd of servants — most of whom are mere slaves from their estates. In short, whatever is showy or dazzling is admired; and even the ladies seem to study mere finery in dress more than elegance or good taste.

In my volume on Sweden, I adverted to the conduct of Gustavus, whose abdication was altogether a voluntary act, and who has now become a wanderer on the Continent. The latest accounts respecting this ex-monarch inform us that he was studying the Turkish language at Leipsic, previously to setting out for, and taking up his residence in, that country. We here learned the stratagems and deep-laid schemes which were exercised on the part of the Empress Catherine, in order to inveigle Gustavus into an alliance with the imperial family, and the firmness he displayed on that occasion, notwithstanding his extreme youth and inexperience. His determined adherence to the principles of his faith and religion cannot fail to reflect the highest honour on him, in spite of his foibles, and that very impolitic line of conduct he has since pur-

sued. Catherine, whose grand object was power and empire, induced the King, during his minority, to pay a visit to her capital. In consequence of this, he arrived here in August 1796, with his uncle, the Duke of Sudermania, who then acted in the capacity of his guardian, and took up his residence, not in any of the palaces of the imperial family, but at the hotel of the Swedish ambassador. At this time the King was a mere stripling, in his seventeenth year, whose eyes were dazzled by military spectacles, and by the grandeur of the Russian court; and after he had been presented to the Arch-duchess who was designed for him, the marriage was fixed to be solemnized on the 21st of September.

On this occasion every artifice was contrived to captivate the royal youth, every device resorted to in order to dazzle and fascinate him. A magnificent throne was erected, when the Empress arrived in great state, confident of the success of her plans, and that no obstacles could arise to defeat the accomplishment of her wishes. The marriage-articles were sent to the King; but on perusing them, he was overwhelmed with astonishment at discovering they contained terms to which he had never given his assent, and diametrically opposite to his feelings. Gustavus immediately returned them, nor could he by any solicitations be prevailed upon to subscribe the contract, under qualifications so highly in-

jurious to the great cause of religion in the country over which he was to wield the royal sceptre; for the Empress stipulated that the bride should still continue to profess the doctrines of the Greek church, and had moreover bound down Sweden to enter into engagements against France. The prince continued inflexible, and the alliance was thus suddenly broken off. If the monarch did not raise himself, by this act, in the estimation of the Russians, he had at least the satisfaction of knowing he had gained the applause of his own subjects, whose religion he had so nobly resolved to maintain and guard against any innovation that might be attempted to be introduced. Had this alliance taken place, according to the conditions made by the crafty Catherine, it requires no depth of penetration to discover that Lutheranism would have been completely overturned, and the tenets of the Greek church substituted for it; and, in all probability, too, civil war in Sweden would have been the consequence. This obstinacy on the part of the young Prince, was looked upon as a species of high treason against the mighty Catherine, whose word was held to be a law; the nobles were overwhelmed with astonishment, and her pride received a wound which neither the gaiety of a court, nor the splendour of pompous entertainments, could either dissipate or conceal. The mortification of the Empress on this occasion is said to have

greatly contributed to accelerate her death, which occurred on the 5th of the following November. That Catherine repeatedly sacrificed justice and ambition, cannot be questioned; neither is it possible to offer any apology for the dissoluteness of her private life, or for her conduct as regards the partition of Poland, and many other acts that have stained her name; still she must undoubtedly be ranked as a great sovereign, and unquestionably did much for the civilization of Russia, and towards maturing the plans that had been commenced by Peter. In this respect, at least, she may be held up as a model for her successors; and it is to be wished that while they imitate her patriotism, they may cautiously avoid those errors which marked both her public and private life.

CHAP. XII.

Neva. — Inundations. — That of the year 1824 *described. —Greek religion.—Toleration.—Kazan church.—Catholic church. — Monument to Moreau. — English church.*

At those times when the Neva is not frozen, it exhibits a gay and lively feature, in consequence of the number of vessels, barges, and scullers moving on its surface in all directions, and likewise from the continual throng on the wooden bridge opposite to the statue of Peter the Great, which is always occupied by pedestrians and carriages. During winter, this bridge is removed till the ice breaks up. It is, in fact, a very paltry one for such a great capital; and it is to be regretted that the nature of the stream, and the danger to be apprehended from the masses of floating ice, prevent a stone bridge from being constructed, as it would add so much to the grandeur of a scene that in every other respect is truly interesting, whether we consider the river itself, its granite quays, or the stately edifices that line its banks. In this latter respect, the Neva presents a striking contrast to the Thames; which is almost as carefully excluded from view as if we were ashamed of it, and which, notwithstanding its noble bridges, contributes little to the embellishment

of the British metropolis. In the event, however, of a stone bridge being erected, the plan that is adopted at Frankfort for diminishing the force of ice, might be introduced here. A wooden shed of some elevation above the water, is built so as to form an inclined plane to the current, by which means the body of ice is split; and between this and the bridge is placed a similar contrivance, so that when the masses of ice come in contact with it, they are again divided into smaller fragments, and thus, on reaching the bridge, they pass through without injuring it.

Owing to the marshy situation of this capital, and its contiguity to the river, it has always been subject to inundations from the overflowing of the Neva, assisted by tributary streams and high winds. Tragical, indeed, is the detail that might be entered into of the catastrophes that have occurred from time to time, by the loss of human lives and the destruction of property, occasioned by the rising of the overwhelming element. Of these inundations the most remarkable are the following: — On the 26th of November, 1752, the river rose 8 feet, 5 inches; on the 10th of September, 1777, the elevation of the waters was 10 feet, 7 inches; and on the 26th of the same month, 7 feet. In November, 1796, which was the anniversary of the birth of Catherine, it was 17 feet higher, and the whole city was laid under water. The loss of lives amounted to 15,000 —

a most serious calamity to this capital, where there is evinced so great an anxiety to extend the population. Another inundation happened on the 7th of November, 1824, when the river rose 13 feet, 8 inches, above its ordinary level. A variety of facts are given as to this last calamity. Before, however, proceeding to these, it may be of importance to state, that on the waters threatening an inundation of the capital, four red flags are hoisted upon the top of the Admiralty steeple, as the first signal to the inhabitants who occupy the lower apartments; and on their continuing to rise, four white flags are substituted for the red ones, to denote the increased danger.* Guns are likewise fired at intervals from the fortress, to warn those who may not have an opportunity of seeing the signals; and after dark four lamps are substituted for the flags. Hence all have time afforded them of making arrangements for the personal safety of themselves and families, and meeting this formidable enemy.

On the night of the 24th of November, the lamps were hung round the top of the steeple, in consequence of a strong westerly wind impeding the rapid current from Lake Ladoga, and thereby causing a tremendous swell in the Neva and all the canals. By twelve o'clock the following

* See these represented in the view of the admiralty quarter.

day, nearly the whole city was laid under water, and a scene of horror ensued that absolutely baffles description; for sentry-boxes, timber, furniture, and all kinds of provisions might be seen floating in enormous masses along the streets, while dark rolling clouds added to the frightful spectacle, and the water dashed over the roofs of the highest houses. In one quarter of the town, that called the Smolensky, the very mansions of the dead were invaded, graves torn open, and the coffins everywhere floated about. The water was now 7 feet above the pavements in all parts of the city. Many persons, never supposing it would attain such a height, had left their houses to witness the increase of the Neva; but, alas! on attempting to return to them, perished in the flood. All the bridges were swept away, and the broken barges, rafts of wood, galliots, and vessels of various descriptions carried along with them the lamp-posts, smashed the windows, were hurling to and fro, and some of the streets choked up by them. In another quarter, the Vassili Ostrov, where most of the houses are of wood, the destruction was tremendous; for these buildings were torn up from their very foundations, and entirely swept away, with the dead bodies of their inmates. Amidst these scenes of horror, many instances of truly wonderful, and almost providential rescue from destruction occurred, among which the following

deserve to be noticed: — In one house that was surrounded with water there were several children, who, as the flood increased, first had recourse to a chair, and when it reached the top of that, they mounted a table. In this situation, perilous as it was, they fell asleep, and on awaking, found that their floating couch nearly touched the ceiling; by this means, however, they were miraculously saved. The second instance is, that of a cradle being carried away by the flood, with a male child in it, who, like another Moses, was thus wonderfully preserved. A wooden house, having been lifted from its foundation, was set afloat and washed into the Admiralty-yard, and on searching this, it was found to contain much property. On the waters subsiding, the dead body of a female was found kneeling, in the act of supplicating to the image of a saint affixed to the wall. Throughout the city all was terror, despair, and dismay; for the terrified inhabitants imagined a general deluge was about to take place.* But it would occupy too much space to explain the further horrors of the whole of this most

* An anecdote is given of a soldier during the inundation of 1796, illustrative of a strong sense of duty. He was on sentry at the palace, and the water had reached to his thighs, when the Empress, who saw him from a window, commanded him to retire. This, however, he refused to do, although he was aware that it was the Empress herself who spoke to him; observing to her that he could not quit his post unless his serjeant sent another to relieve him.

heart-rending scene, the very contemplation of which shakes our nerves; or to dwell upon the destruction, the loss of property, and the number of human beings carried down the Gulf of Finland with the retiring waters. According to one calculation, 480 lives were sacrificed, and one-half of these were in the environs. Out of 1987 persons, whose lives and health had been endangered, no more than 40 died; and about 15,000 individuals received relief in provisions, &c. to the amount of 898,640 rubles. There were 462 houses carried off by the overwhelming flood, and 3681 damaged.

On this river the particular district to which each boat belongs, is marked on its stern. Vessels arrive, piled with hay to a most astonishing height — so much as to endanger their being upset. In point of size these floating masses are almost equal to the largest hay-stacks in England, and when viewed from a distance, they have the appearance of so many thatched huts, or small villages.

The tenets of faith maintained by the Russians, constitute what has been denominated the Greek religion. To a superficial observer, looking only at the external acts of devotion usual among the people, they might appear to be a counterpart of those of the Catholic church. This, however, is not the case; for the former differs considerably from the latter, and one of

its established principles is an absolute rejection of the authority of the Pope in ecclesiastical affairs. But what cannot possibly fail to strike us as partaking of the leaven of popery is, that although the worshipping of images is so positively forbidden, and the force of the divine law in this respect is admitted, the Russians worship the pictures of saints; and yet, strange to say, will not admit any sculpture whatever into their churches!* The walls of the churches are actually covered with these effigies, which are fantastically ornamented with silver, gold, and precious stones. How far, however, the followers of the Greek church can reconcile their prostration before inanimate objects, with the express declaration of the Almighty himself against it, it is difficult to comprehend. If we consult the word of God, which ought to be an unerring rule of judging, what is the instruction it conveys to us on this momentous subject? Does it not, in the strongest language, prohibit his creatures from making the *likeness* of any thing in heaven above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth, for the purpose of worshipping it? Has not one of the prophets more particularly, when threatening the Jews on

* The taste for ornamenting churches with paintings may have been introduced from Greece; since the Russians were converted to the Christian faith by that nation, while it has certainly had a considerable influence on their religious rites, and every thing relating to divine worship.

account of their idolatries, and calling on them to repent, said, "Will ye walk after other gods whom ye know not, and come and stand before me in this house which is called by my name, and say we are delivered to do all these abominations?"* Another expressly declares, "that they shall be ashamed and confounded, all of them shall go into confusion together, that are makers of idols?" † And what is the language of an apostle in reference to the same subject? "Now if any man build upon this foundation of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, &c. every man's work shall be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." ‡ The royal psalmist also observes, "they that make them, are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them." § It would be tedious, however, to adduce from various parts of Scripture‖, the positive denunciation of the Great Creator against a practice which robs him of that honour which is exclusively due to His exalted name. I am aware that these observations may sound harsh in the ears of the Russians; but if an angel came down from heaven, and preached any other doctrine,

* Jer vii. 9, 10. † Isaiah, xlv. 16.
‡ 1 Cor. iii. 12. 13. § Psal. cxxxv. 18.
‖ Rev. ix. 20. Ezek. xiv. 3. xxx. 13. 1 Chron. xvi. 26. Zech. xiii. 2. 2 Cor. vi. 16. Psal. xcvi. 5.

let him be accursed*; and I say unto them, "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read." Must not, therefore, the adoption of a practice so apt to be abused and to degenerate into downright idolatry, as that of showing formal reverence for the pretended portraits of saints, tend both to corrupt the affections, and to debase the understanding, to lead our thoughts and aspirations from the Supreme Being to his creatures? Can we, also, rationally think that such devotions as are offered to them are pleasing to the saints themselves? or, rather, would not they be the first to deprecate such mistaken piety, such gross delusion? Nor is it, after all, for weak and fallible mortals to presume to say whom the Almighty hath judged to be so abundant in righteousness as to deserve, even supposing any may deserve, to partake of the semblance of his power. Let heathens deify mortals, and people their heaven with apotheoses; but to the Christian, let there be but one Being deemed worthy of receiving his homage — even the Lord God.

It is supposed that the Greek is the original, or principal, church; that the true faith it contains has not changed from the beginning, and it never did depart from the apostles' church; a title given to it, from the consideration, that it preserved inviolate the doctrines,

* Gal. i. 8.

which had been taught by these inspired characters, Christ himself being the chief corner-stone. But it is unnecessary to argue on, and show the fallacy of this reasoning. It reminds me of an observation made in a conversation I had with a monk at Rome on the same subject, who maintained that the Catholic was the original or mother church, all others throughout the world being sprung from it; and to use his own expression, "Pray what are your churches in England and Scotland, and dissenters of all classes, but mere mongrels?" With regard to the practice of introducing the pictures of saints into churches, it is contended by the Russian clergy, that the act itself does not include a violation of the first commandment, when they invoke departed saints; for they maintain that they "call on God and the Saviour, and address the saints as his servants, who enjoy with him a glorious eternity;" and in justification of this, they assert that the saints, when on earth, prayed for one another, and called upon others to intercede in their behalf, as is shown by passages in the scriptures.* This also brings to recollection an additional remark made by the monk: — on mentioning the inutility of praying for those in purgatory, since revelation informed us, that after death there was judgment; he declared, that as the "effectual fervent prayer of a righte-

* Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Epistles to the Romans, Corinthians, and Philemon.

ous man availeth much *," his belief was, that although departed souls might be experiencing eternal death, the sentence of the Almighty would be reversed, and they might enjoy a state of happiness through such prayers being offered up! Yet admitting, for a moment, the validity of this reasoning, what opinion can we entertain of the Romish clergy, who, knowing the efficacy of their prayers, will not employ them without being paid? — Let them solve this disagreeable doubt. Do not, also, such invocations virtually detract from the merits of Him who is the only mediator between God and man, and by whom alone, under heaven, the salvation of guilty creatures can possibly be accomplished? It is contended, however, that pictures are not displayed as objects of worship, but to keep alive the Christian faith, and commemorate certain acts of the Almighty and his elect servants; a doctrine that has been sounded in our ears again and again in the Roman capital, the very focus of Catholicism. But in opposition to all this, let us attend to the observation of one of their most zealous and bigotted fathers, who holds an exalted rank in the Greek church, and we shall see how he feels on this subject, and his own positive conviction of the danger and contamination arising from their introduction: — "The obeisance we make before pictures we do not render to the paintings themselves, but to the persons

* James v. 15. 16.

they represent, whom we thus affectionately salute. That which is performed before the pictures of our Saviour, and many of the saints, although to appearance the same, is really different: the former consists in humility before him as Lord of all; the latter is a reverence shown to his favourites, who are of the same nature, and church, and members of the same body as ourselves." The metropolitan is aware of the pernicious nature of these images, in the following remark by way of qualification: — "Notwithstanding what I have said, this lawful and holy reverence of pictures *may be turned into the most abominable sin of idolatry!*" He also adds, by way of caution to the members of the Greek church, "It is necessary, therefore, for every one to be *very watchful that he be not infected with such errors*, and remember that the worship of God can never be sincere, unless it proceeds from a contrite and unfeigned spirit; and the Gospel requires, that the worshippers of God should WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH, and not in hypocrisy; and we must hold to the Divine Word alone, assured that it contains the true rules by which we ought to please the Almighty."

Now, if revelation is to be held as a "lamp to our feet, and a light to our path," in other words, the infallible rule that is to direct us, the Greek church must to a certainty be in a state of mental blindness, if it does not discover how

strongly such objects, and the "reverencing and yielding obeisance" to them, are condemned; for if the great Creator of all be a spirit, where can there exist the necessity of making pictures, and kneeling before them, to prompt his creatures to offer to him that profound homage and adoration of the heart which is called for? The very circumstance alone of having them before their eyes, must, to a positive certainty, have the effect of diverting their minds, and estranging their affections from him who is the living and true God; who, being invisible, cannot be conceived under any form cognizable by mortal sense.* Here I would simply ask, if such nice distinctions as that made by the metropolitan, are likely to be attended to by the great mass of the people? These exhibitions are really introduced to answer a particular purpose of worship, not as mere decorations and ornaments.

Many, who are connected with the Greek church, appeared to us to be exceedingly illiterate, and to place equal, if not greater,

* Without saying any thing of the horrible profaneness of pretending to delineate the Supreme Being, the absurdities into which even the greatest artists have fallen whenever they have attempted it, are such as shock taste and propriety equally with religious feeling. Painters uniformly choose to represent the Divinity under the form of an aged man; as if age was an attribute of that Being who is eternal, and who existed before all worlds; — as if the semblance of infirmity and decay could belong to him who is all perfection, — to him who is incapable of change!

reliance on the observance of ceremonies, than on spiritual religion. We frequently observed them kneeling before these objects of idolatry, as if they were capable of working out their salvation; and during these exercises their countenances evidently denoted that they considered themselves to be fulfilling a religious duty. It should be observed, too, that images, or tutelar saints, are displayed or stuck up in their houses; and so far is such a practice from tending to cherish any thing like piety, that, it is to be feared, it rather familiarises such symbols so much as to destroy those feelings of veneration they are designed to produce. One thing, at least, is certain, that in countries where so much respect is paid to the externals of religion, to the mere apparatus of holiness, there is less of genuine religion and moral feeling than in those where there are none of these substitutes for the devotion of the heart. As a proof of the gross ignorance prevailing here, it is related, that a peasant hearing a clock strike in the house of an Englishman, crossed himself and fell down before it, mistaking it for the owner's patron saint! Another anecdote, illustrative of these practices, will be sufficient to show the besotted superstition of the common people. A Russian, in the service of an Englishman, being reproved by his master for indulgence in intoxication, was asked how he could reconcile such a practice to his conscience; on which he gravely answered, that he would

merely have to make application to his saint, who would arrange all that was requisite as to such matters. But it is unnecessary to multiply facts in proof of that profound ignorance and superstition of the multitude. From all that passed under our own observation in the different churches we visited, it appeared that the same acts of honour and adoration were offered to these pictures as towards the Deity himself. How devoutly, then, is it to be wished, that the Greek church may be purified from these and other idolatrous practices!

Having spoken of their religious ceremonies, notice shall be taken of one or two of the numerous churches in this capital. I will first observe, however, that the religious toleration shown in this country to all sects, reflects honour upon the government, at the same time that it forms a striking contrast to the petty and contemptible jealousy it exhibits in other matters. It is supposed that the Divine Being is worshipped here in twelve different languages; and as six of these churches are to be found in the principal streets, it might, with propriety, be distinguished by the title of "Toleration Street." *

* It may be interesting to mention here, that the aggregate population of the Globe amounts to 828,000,000; and according to a calculation made of the different religious sects, the latter are classed as follows: —

The Kazan church, or cathedral of St. Petersburg, is first entitled to the notice of travellers;

Catholics	169,150,000
Protestants — Evangelic united	8,200,000
Lutheran	16,220,000
Reformed	12,240,000
Proper reformed	7,440,000
Presbyterians	4,800,000
Anglicans	15,050,000
Professors of various sects	5,984,000
Independents	3,800,000
Methodists	1,500,000
Quakers	200,000
Menonites	200,000
Herrnhuters	100,000
Baptists	76,000
Unitarians	60,000
Swedenborgians	36,000
Phillippines	12,000
Russo-Greeks	35,375,000
Eastern Greeks	6,000,000
Jacobites	3,526,000
Proper Jacobites	220,000
Copts	3,200,000
Thomas Christians	80,000
John Christians	26,000
Maronites	150,000
Armenians	2,200,000
Nestorians	400,000
Jews	2,650,000
Mahommedans	115,120,000
Total	414,015,000

and if they should have visited the Roman capital, they cannot fail to remark, how much its external aspect is superior to that of St. Peter's, although not on a scale of such magnitude. This magnificent structure, situated about the centre of the Nevsky Perspective, was begun by the Emperor Paul in 1801, and finished by his successor ten years afterwards, when it was opened with extraordinary solemnity on the 15th of September, 1811, the anniversary of Alexander's birth. On each side of the façade is a semicircular colonnade, consisting altogether of 132 Corinthian pillars, forming a magnificent area or court in front. The idea of this court was, in all probability, borrowed from the piazza of St. Peter's; but although not so extensive, the general design is far more noble and more

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To which may be added, that in		
England the inhabitants are	-	11,261,437
Wales - - -		727,438
Scotland -	-	2,093,456
Individuals in navy, marine, and military	- -	319,300
And in Ireland -	-	6,801,817
Islands dependent on Britain	-	789,508
Total		21,992,956

In the Russian dominions 40,000,000 are of the Greek persuasion, 3,000,000 of Lutherans, an equal number of Mahommedans, 6,000,000 of Catholics, and various other sects.

regular; the colonnades harmonizing perfectly with the portico of the church itself, with which they are immediately connected, whereas those attached by Bernini to the Roman basilica present no similarity whatever of character with that edifice, while their pillared rows serve only to render more striking the meagre style and vicious taste of the principal structure. The area of the Kazan church combines simplicity with richness, regularity with variety, and its arrangement is highly picturesque. The portals at the extremity of the colonnades are exceedingly happy, and give a finish and solidity to this part of the building that completes the design. Over each of these pavilions is a low parapet attic, with a long bas-relief; and on their sides towards the area are colossal bronze statues, one representing the Archangel Gabriel, the other Michael. This grand façade does great honour to the talents of the architect Voronikhin, and may be considered, upon the whole, as one of the most splendid edifices in Europe. The diameter of the piazza is about 300 feet (English), and the columns are thirty-five feet in height, formed of yellow stone called pudozhesky, which both in point of colour and grain bears a considerable resemblance to the travertine of which St. Peter's is built. Within the portico are colossal bronze statues of Vladimir, by Martos; St. Alexander Nevsky, and St. John the Baptist, by Pimenov;

and St. Andrew, by Demuth; and the bronze doors are copied from the celebrated ones of the Baptistery at Florence. The cupola, however, is so far from adding to the beauty or majesty of the edifice, that it is obviously the poorest feature of the design, for it is not only too small (being only sixty-three feet in diameter), but disfigured by the numerous little pediments on its attic. The interior, which is 240 feet in length, is remarkably splendid, the pavement being entirely composed of different coloured marbles, and the columns formed of single pieces of granite, very highly polished, with bases and capitals of gilt bronze. This granite, which comes from Finland, is of a brown hue, diversified with blue and white spots, and is hardly inferior to the best Egyptian specimens. The grand altar, likewise, is richly decorated with beautiful paintings. The priests who officiated, were lusty figures, resembling well-fed monks, and wore flowing hair and beards; for the archbishop is the only ecclesiastic who is entitled to have his chin shaven. One head of the Virgin Mary (and there are many of her ladyship here) is surmounted by diamonds worth 100,000 rubles, and is, moreover, decorated with a chain, of prodigious value, lately put round her neck. The door of the altar, and the railing in front, are of silver. Opposite to it is a seat appropriated exclusively for the accommodation of the Emperor.

Upwards of 100 flags and standards, taken from the French and Prussians, are displayed in various parts of the church; although it appears rather indecorous to deposit the trophies of war and blood-shed within the temple of religion, where "peace and good-will" ought to be proclaimed to men, and in the language of Holy Writ, prayers are offered up to that glorious Being, to throw over his creatures "his banners of love." Here are likewise the keys of fortresses, among which are those of the gates of Paris, although the genuineness of the latter is disputed. A marshal's baton is shown, that formerly belonged to Davoust, whose name, as I have already remarked, is so execrated at Hamburgh. This was, at one time, stolen by a Frenchman, but was afterwards recovered from him. The principal defect to be attributed to this church is the great want of light; and the gloom is increased by the state of the windows, which do not appear to have been ever cleaned. At the back of the altar, when the doors are thrown open, the houses in the streets are seen, a defect that might be remedied either by transparent blinds, or windows of stained glass. No religious ceremony takes place during day in any of the churches without their being illuminated, a practice which is said to have existed since the days of the apostles. There are no seats for the congregation assembled, neither had they any books;

indeed they appeared to content themselves with the mere external forms of religion. We observed, on this occasion, several miserable objects entering with tapers, which they placed beside those near the priests; and the satisfaction visible in their countenances and motions, evidently showed that they thought they were thereby performing a meritorious act, and one that would draw down upon them the divine blessing; for they conceive that they honour the Almighty according to the number of lights they display.

With the exception of the Greek Christians, the Lutherans exceed in number any other sect in St. Petersburg. Although the Emperor Alexander might, from his education and peculiar habits, be considered as strongly attached to the Greek persuasion, yet he all along showed the highest liberality in matters of religion, and most laudably permitted others to exercise the same liberty of conscience as he claimed to himself. Notwithstanding, too, that His Majesty formed a "holy alliance" against any attempt to infringe on the royal prerogative of a political nature; yet he found "that good may come out of Nazareth," and that men can "wash and be clean" in other streams than those of Damascus. He also countenanced the English Society established for the propagation of the Scriptures in all languages; and encouraged schools of mutual instruction, after the British system. This being the first time

that we saw the service performed, we were peculiarly struck with the monotonous and unwearied formality observed by those present, in crossing themselves, and bowing their heads to the ground so frequently as to create a kind of giddiness or stupor. The hurried manner in which the service was mumbled over appeared also not a little indecorous; and, in a word, from all that fell under our observation, we are inclined to think a mental "veil or covering is spread over this people."

There are four annual fasts, during which the Russians abstain from eating meat, eggs, butter, or even drinking milk; contenting themselves with rice and vegetables: nay, even tobacco and snuff are considered illicit indulgences! — so truly do these people stumble at straws, while they leap over mountains.

It was most amusing to perceive the veneration with which the Kazan church is regarded; for hardly a Russian passes it without stopping, and taking off his hat, making repeated bows with his head almost to the ground, and at the same time touching his brow. The Russians, in fact, appear to consider it almost high treason to pass a place of worship without going into these formalities, which are too frequently considered — and by many, I fear, who never enter its walls — as a receipt in full of all demands. In short, religion here is the most convenient thing ima-

ginable, and a reputation for it may be obtained very easily; for it is possible to be very devout and exceedingly immoral. It is true, that in England there are a great many persons of the latter character, but very few indeed among them make any pretensions to being religious.

In the same street is the Catholic church, which, although it contains nothing remarkable, yet from the simple circumstance of the body of Moreau being interred there, is entitled to notice. It will be recollected, that the legs of this brave and unfortunate general, who was so much the object of Bonaparte's jealousy, and held in such high estimation by his countrymen, were taken off by the first shot at the heights above Dresden, where, it may be mentioned, there is an inscription on a square block of granite, with a helmet, sword, and wreath of laurel, recording that he "fell by the side of Alexander." The monument erected to him here is extremely plain, being merely a white tablet, edged with dark spotted marble, and this inscription:—

"MOREAU,
NÉ À MORLAIX,
11 AOÛT 1768;
MORT À LAUN,
2 SEPT. 1813."

There are benches here for the congregations; the first we had seen in any Catholic church,

there being always chairs, with broad pieces of board on the top of them for the purpose of resting the arms when kneeling, and also for placing books.

Nothing can be more gratifying to a Briton in a foreign land, than to find churches where service is performed after the pure and simple mode in his native country. Before describing the English church in this capital, it may not be amiss to enter into a history of its origin.

As far back as April 30. 1716, a meeting of the British residents was held at Moscow, for the purpose of providing a suitable place of worship; on which the Rev. Mr. Cousett was invited over, and his residence fixed at Archangel, from which place the English factory was removed in 1723, when it was transferred to Petersburg, where a special fund was formed for defraying all expences attending an ecclesiastical establishment. After this, the Russian Company in London appointed Mr. Philip Lernoult, who continued to officiate till 1744; when the Factory made choice of the Rev. John Foster. On his resignation a few years after, he was succeeded by Dr. Daniel Demaresque, who returned to England in 1762; and after a short vacancy his place was supplied by the voluntary offer of the Rev. Mr. Erskine, private secretary to the Earl of Buckinghamshire, then minister at the Russian court. In 1763 Dr. King was ap-

pointed; and in 1771 he was succeeded by the Rev. William Tooke, who, at that time, officiated at Cronstadt, and he continued to hold the office for eighteen years. The Russian company then elected Mr. Percival; but on his going to another climate, in consequence of ill-health, Mr. Loudon was named as a substitute, till Mr. King Pitt was sent from England. On his death, Dr. Beresford was appointed chaplain in 1813; and he again was succeeded, the following year, by Mr. Nicolas Spencer, who resigned in 1818; after which Mr. Randolph was chosen to the chaplaincy, which he also resigned in 1820, and was succeeded by Mr. Law, who, at present, fills the office, greatly to the satisfaction of his flock.

The church is situate near the extremity of what is called the "English Line," which is chiefly occupied by our ambassador, consul-general, and the principal British merchants. This spot is peculiarly well chosen; the building itself is substantial, and the manner in which it is laid out is judicious. It was here that we heard a most impressive discourse, delivered by Mr. Law, from the words, "I am the vine, and ye are the branches." The hours of service are eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and seven o'clock in the evening. The seat set apart for the British minister (which is opposite to the pulpit, and has a canopy, with the royal arms of England, and blue curtains on each side,) was occu-

pied by Sir Charles Bagot. This chapel, which measures ninety-four feet by forty-one, is commodiously and neatly fitted up, and well lighted and warmed; but the pulpit is awkwardly placed, and the organ, instead of being over the entrance, is above the ambassador's seat. On each side of the altar are Corinthian pillars, and casts of the apostles Peter and Paul; and the altar, as well as the pulpit and desk, is covered with crimson velvet, fringed with gold. The women sit apart from the men, the former occupying the seats nearest to the pulpit. In the prayers of the morning, after the words, "O Lord, save the King," are added, "and his Imperial Majesty,"* which are repeated wherever allusion is made to those in authority. And again in the Litany, where blessings are called for on magistrates, there is added, "That it may please Thee to bless the imperial magistrates." No bell is permitted, by the Russian authorities, to be used; nor is the burying-ground for our countrymen attached to the church, but situate on the other side of the river. One peculiar privilege belonging to this church, which it is material to observe, is, that the police are expressly prohibited from entering either its walls,

* In the English church at Paris the royal family of France are not in any way alluded to in the service, although in that at Boulogne a particular and exclusive form of prayer is offered up for them.

or the clergyman's residence. Connected with this building are a number of others, with a large court behind: these are appropriated for different purposes, such as a library, a house for the clerk, &c. The former is open at certain hours; and those subscribers, who take books home with them, pay fifty rubles annually, but those who do not, only half that sum.

CHAP. XIII.

Passage in steam-boat to Cronstadt. — Description of that port. — Docks. — Anecdote. — English church. — House of Peter the Great. — Criminals. — Fortifications. — Number of vessels. — Improvements, &c.

Our curiosity having been satisfied with a view of the principal objects in St. Petersburg, we now proposed to make a short excursion to Cronstadt, it being a place which no traveller should neglect to visit. Previous to doing so, however, it was necessary that we should obtain a formal passport, although the distance is so short (sixteen miles). We proceeded in a steam-boat; for which the proprietor, Mr. Baird, a Scotchman, who has resided here some time, and who, in the language of his native country, has found this concern to be a "dripping roast," has obtained a patent for a term of years — a favour that is looked upon with an eye of jealousy by the Russians. Some idea may be formed of the profits of this concern, when I state that, according to our information, the proprietor had made 70,000 rubles in the course of one week, by conveying passengers to Peterhoff at the time of a

fête. We embarked at five o'clock in the afternoon, paying five rubles a piece, and found that we were to be amused during our passage by the music of a hand-organ, miserably out of tune, and a split tambourine, which, as may be believed, we would readily have dispensed with. The prices of provisions furnished on board were fixed up.*

* These are as follows : —

	Rubles.	Copecs.
Beef-steak	1	0
Ham	0	80
Cheese	0	80
Tongue	0	60
Smoked salmon	0	80
Sausage	0	80
Bread and butter	0	20
Coffee	1	50
Tea	1	20
Madeira	4	0
Medoc	3	0
Beer	0	80
Black beer	0	10
Grog	0	80
Porter in tumbler	1	0
Madeira	1	0
English porter	3	0
Tumbler of negus	1	25
Punch	1	0
Lemonade	0	80
Glass of rum	0	60
Gin	0	30
Cogniac	0	80
Bottle of champaigne	13	0
Port wine	4	0

In the course of our voyage on the Gulf of Finland, we saw a number of buoys that had been laid down to indicate dangerous places. The scenery on both sides of the Gulf was distinctly visible, and the view on the left was enlivened by several palaces, especially that of Peterhoff, which is surrounded with woods. On our arrival at Cronstadt, we put up at a shabby inn, kept by an Englishman.

The Island of Cronstadt is situate at the extremity of the Gulf to the east, and is about forty versts by land from the capital. It is twelve miles in length, and upwards of one in breadth. Formerly it had two names; that of Retusari being given to it by the Swedes, and that of Kotloi-Ostrov, or Kettle Island, by the Russians. Peter the Great, however, bestowed on it the dignified appellation of Kronstad or Cronstadt, literally Crown-town, to intimate that it was the crown of his new city of Petersburg.

The consequence of this place is derived from the number of ships of war, as well as commercial vessels, that arrive and depart from hence, and also from its strong fortifications. It may therefore be considered as the Portsmouth or Plymouth of Russia. There are several streets, which, like those of the metropolis, are very spacious; but we did not find here the bustle and animation of the two English ports, where one is jostled at

every other step by naval men of all ranks. The houses are formed mostly of wood, but there are some few of brick, and they stand detached from each other. The shops are under arcades. There are some inns, kept by our countrymen, which have sign-boards in the English language. In front of the harbour is a square, where a military guard is mounted, and from hence the principal street runs about half a mile in length. All the streets are kept remarkably clean; this being the task of criminals sentenced to slavery. There is a famous canal, communicating with the sea, and about sixty fathoms in depth, adjoining to which are the docks and sluices; and these latter are capable of containing several ships for repair at the same time. The first of these is a white building, next the square, with a cupola of glass, from which is a most extensive view. In front of it stands the mast of a vessel fully rigged, where boys are exercised in naval tactics and a knowledge of rigging. A similar mode of training, and of conveying an idea of naval manœuvres, is adopted in the education of the young heir-apparent, the little Grand Duke Alexander, for whose use there is a large and completely rigged vessel, fitted up in one of the halls of the Winter Palace. Here he is taught the names and use of every part of the rigging, and is made to run up the ropes like a common sailor; and that he may

also obtain some insight into military exercise, he has a number of wooden figures, representing companies of soldiers, by means of which he is instructed in the different evolutions. This young prince was, at a very early age, appointed commander of a regiment of Hussars; and was one day taken out by his father, the present Emperor, to a review. On these occasions it was usual for the late Emperor Alexander to order a ruble and a glass of brandy to be given to each private; and the prince was permitted to command the donation. The men, willing to testify their gratitude to their young chief, rent the air with their acclamation, on which the boy, delighted at the honour paid him, repeated the order five several times, till his father was obliged to check his inconsiderate liberality; for the men expected that each repetition of the order, was to produce them an additional ruble and glass of liquor. The Emperor accordingly directed that they should receive it; but, on his return to the palace, the poor little prince not only received a severe reprimand for his indiscretion, but had his epaulets taken from him, and a practical lesson given him in military discipline. And here it may not be improper to mention, that the Russian navy, divided between the Baltic and Black Sea, is said to

amount to forty ships of the line, besides frigates. In the yard also is the upper part of a vessel, which serves for the same purpose.

Cronstadt has a Bible Society, four schools, and four churches, besides one Lutheran, a Catholic, and a Mahomedan place of worship, attached to the military hospital, and also an English church. The principal Russian church, which is situate in the centre of a square, has a dome and a spire; and a portico in front, with a colossal statue of an apostle on each side. The altar is beneath the dome, and round the upper part of the latter are figures of the twelve apostles. We attended service here on the Empress's birth-day, when three priests officiated at the same time. The singing was pleasing, and showed some degree of taste in the performers, who were boys. Many females brought their children close to the priests, especially when they held in their hands the communion elements. The next place of worship that attracts attention, and more especially excites the interest of Englishmen, is, that established for divine service according to the church of England, which was originally performed in a temporary wooden building. The edifice is plain but elegant, and very neat and commodious within. It is 97 feet in length, and 43 in breadth, with 18 windows on each side; and

has a portico of several columns, and a small belfry, after the shape of those in our country churches. The altar, which is in a recess, in the form of a semicircle, with six columns, is covered with blue velvet and gold fringe. On one side of this stands the pulpit, and on the other the reading-desk; but these are too large, and out of proportion to the place itself. This church was opened with great solemnity on the 15th of June, 1824, in presence of the British ambassador, Sir Charles Bagot; Sir Daniel Bailey, British consul, St. Petersburg; Mr. Booker, British consul, Cronstadt; the Rev. Edward Law, British chaplain, St. Petersburg; and Mr. Blackmoor, who officiates here. The Russian Admiral Crown, the garrison, and the clergy of the Greek persuasion also attended on this occasion; and it was a most interesting spectacle to behold 150 British seamen, who had witnessed the "wonders of the Lord in the mighty deep," lining the procession, which was preceded by flags and ensigns of the island of Albion. The clergymen conducted them to the church, repeating, at the same time, the 24th Psalm, declaratory of the solemn entrance of the Lord into his sanctuary; and in the course of the service, psalms were sung by a select body of the seamen. It is no more than a due tribute to the British consul, John Booker, Esq. to remark

here, that if there be any individual who is entitled more than another to the gratitude of his countrymen, for the interest he has taken, and the great exertions made for raising this temple of Protestantism, it is he. As a structure, it is an ornament to the town; while, as a monument of their regard for religion, it is an honour to those Englishmen who were active in founding it, and in thus securing an important advantage to the British inhabitants and seamen. This building is said to have cost 15,000*l.*; part of which was defrayed by the liberality of the English-Russian company, and part by a duty imposed on English vessels here. The minister has an income of 7000 rubles, with a house, &c. besides the emoluments derived from surplice fees.

The house of Peter the Great is situate in a small public garden, where a guard is stationed. This is a very humble edifice, having the appearance of a porter's lodge; but it contains seven apartments, one leading to the other, the first of which is 27½ feet long, by 25 in breadth. On an elevation in the gardens is a circular temple, supported by twelve columns, from which is a view of the whole island. In the centre of this rotunda is a cippus, with a bust of that extraordinary prince; and, underneath, the date 1703. On Sunday evenings

these gardens are greatly resorted to, and at such times there is a musical performance.

The criminals, who sweep the streets, are attended by soldiers, with loaded muskets; and each of them has a number on his back, and an iron collar round his neck, with a piece of iron projecting in front. The most incorrigible are branded; and to discover them more easily, in case of their absconding, a piece of each nostril is burned out. They are urgent in soliciting alms from strangers. The knout, which is inflicted here, is a species of punishment far exceeding that of flogging in the English navy, being so dreadful that humanity shudders at it; yet one man, who was lately lashed severely under the arm-pits, bore the pain with most astonishing fortitude, and afterwards put on his clothes without any assistance.

Cronstadt is very strongly fortified, there being at present about one thousand pieces of heavy cannon, with which one of the piers leading to a mole, pointing to the entry of the harbour, is closely planted. For some distance round the town, and both by land and sea, the ground is dotted as it were with fortifications, erected on wooden piles. The powder-magazines are numerous; and some of them erected in the sea, a short distance from the shore, blew up, being struck with lightning in consequence

of their having no conductors; but these are now adopted. This disaster, we might suppose, would hold out a pretty strong warning to the inhabitants of St. Petersburg to adopt a similar precaution. Numerous men-of-war were laid up in ordinary, and a quantity of ordnance and ball arranged in the different depôts. The Emperor, who paid a visit the day previous to our arrival, came in the most private and unostentatious manner, and inspected the hospitals with great minuteness, tasting the food given to the sick. He directed, that another church should be attached to one of these edifices. The number of vessels from all quarters of the world, that arrive here annually, is very great; a circumstance which creates, at particular seasons, some degree of bustle, and occasions a considerable circulation of money. In order to show the exact number that had arrived from England, an important table is subjoined, which may be interesting to those engaged in commerce.*

* During the present year, the principal articles imported into Russia, were rice, sugar, cotton, yarn, dyeing materials, cotton manufactures, wines, &c. The value of the imports was 182,706,835 rubles. The principal exports — tallow, flax, hemp, and corn. The whole exports amounted to 234,731,448 rubles, exceeding the imports by 52,024,613 rubles.

The number of Merchant Vessels which arrived in the Port of Cronstadt between the Years 1746 *and* 1823, *with the Dates of the beginning and close of each Season.*

Year.	Begun.	Ended.	No. of vessels.	Year.	Begun.	Ended.	No. of vessels.
1746	May 5	Oct. 20	273	1791	April 13	Nov. 7	1034
1751	April 29	— 28	378	1792	— 24	— 6	996
1752	— 24	Nov. 15	474	1793	— 24	— 14	848
1755	— 28	Aug. 31	641	1794	— 19	— 26	962
1756	— 25	Oct. 19	474	1795	— 30	— 16	925
1757	— 24	Nov. 15	415	1796	— 30	Oct. 29	1147
1760	May 2	— 8	357	1797	— 27	Nov. 17	887
1765	April 19	— 26	479	1798	— 22	Dec. 21	1052
1766	— 26	Aug. 27	390	1799	May 12	Nov. 15	779
1767	May 1	Nov. 8	570	1800	April 30	— 16	842
1768	— 8	— 27	506	1801	— 25	Dec. 5	1056
1769	April 22	Dec. 1	609	1802	— 17	Oct. 27	1016
1770	May 3	Nov. 6	545	1803	— 25	Nov. 17	1096
1771	— 15	— 3	662	1804	May 6	— 2	790
1772	— 1	— 3	522	1805	— 4	— 11	995
1773	April 17	Dec. 4	703	1806	— 7	— 13	882
1774	— 27	Oct. 23	729	1807	— 1	— 4	851
1775	May 10	Nov. 13	536	1808	— 24	— 11	72
1776	— 2	Oct. 28	649	1809	— 14	— 29	378
1777	— 7	Nov. 25	737	1810	— 16	Oct. 30	408
1778	April 27	— 6	606	1811	— 6	— 27	377
1779	— 22	— 18	708	1812	— 16	— 26	591
1780	— 28	Oct. 29	560	1813	— 2	— 26	655
1781	May 8	— 27	789	1814	— 8	Nov. 22	984
1782	— 13	Nov. 7	599	1815	April 25	— 7	1259
1783	— 19	— 11	652	1816	May 9	— 16	862
1784	— 5	— 6	890	1817	April 25	— 16	2024
1785	— 5	— 16	679	1818	May 11	— 15	1161
1786	— 7	— 16	883	1819	April 25	— 12	1061
1787	— 5	Oct. 28	803	1820	— 27	— 23	1074
1788	April 29	Nov. 2	990	1821	— 27	Dec. 20	985
1789	May 11	— 9	853	1822	Mar. 22	— 4	1094
1790	— 1	— 16	956	1823	April 22	Nov. 24	1118

In the year 1822, the Kitty, Captain D. Warren, performed *four* voyages to *Cronstadt* from *London* in the short space of five months. She was the only vessel that accomplished her fourth voyage since the trade with Russia existed.

This points out the number of vessels during each year, since 1746. It may be proper to add, that from July to October, 1824, there entered 233 merchant vessels, of different states; and 163 of these arrived from Great Britain. No manufactories are in this town, excepting a brewery * and rope-work. There are twenty-five licensed droshkas; but those which go between this place and St. Petersburg, during the winter months, may be computed at about 235. Notwithstanding the number of seamen, there are not to be seen here any of those profligate females that disgrace our own ports.

In winter there is a complete stagnation of business, as the place is frozen up, and the intercourse with the capital carried on only by means of sledges.† The inhabitants are par-

* A Russian might be surprised were he told, that, according to a parliamentary return, the number of barrels of beer made by public brewers in England and Scotland, during a single year, have been 1,177,127 of strong, and 254,408 of table beer. And the bushels of malt, during such period, used by distillers, have amounted to 3,586,270, one half of which were for North Britain.

† Necessity has been most justly denominated the mother of all invention, and the success which attends one thing prompts to the discovery of another. A skating ship has been lately planned by the Americans, which is twenty-three feet long, and runs on three skates. The mast and sail are similar to those of a common boat. She is exceedingly

ticularly addicted to smuggling, and are understood to be prompted to this practice as much by habit as necessity. The steam-boat established between this town and St. Petersburg has produced the greatest benefit, and occasioned a constant intercourse. Independently of its being subject to inundations, Cronstadt has also suffered from fire; and in a late conflagration, damage was sustained to the extent of 2,700,000 rubles. On the whole, Cronstadt is a very pleasant situation, is rapidly improving, and may be held as one of the keys of the empire.* Had circumstances permitted, we intended to have crossed over and viewed the beautiful palace of Peterhoff, built by Peter the Great, which is distinctly seen from Cronstadt. A sumptuous entertainment is given there yearly, from respect to the memory of the founder; and the gardens are then thrown open to the public, and brilliantly illuminated.

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swift, proceeding at the rate of twenty-three miles an hour, so as to outstrip vessels propelled by steam! So much for the ingenuity of man.

* Since we visited this port, it has been subjected to dreadful calamities, both from fire and water. By the former, which was supposed to have been occasioned, not by accident, but by villany, government suffered a loss of 50,000*l.* At another time, the sea, having overflowed its boundaries, drove back the waters of the Neva, and many of the houses and their inmates were swept off in a moment,

It is impossible to finish this imperfect sketch of Cronstadt, without adverting once more to Mr. Booker, and his lady. They occupy the principal house here; and beneath its roof the stranger is sure of experiencing a cordial welcome, and of receiving those grateful attentions which are prompted by genuine hospitality.

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and the batteries were materially injured. The whole scene was most appalling, and the loss sustained enormous. Great improvements are now making: the glacis is raised above the highest water-mark, so as to protect the town, in future, from a similar calamity. The town-wall was covered with masses of granite, which have been blasted by gunpowder, and the face of the stone chiseled and put together, forming a beautiful wall resembling mosaic, and having a fine effect. The gates are defended by two round towers, which enfilade the works. Streets are paving, and the brick houses covering with plaster. The canal which surrounds the Admiralty is to be completed this year, and all the sea batteries, which were washed away, are now rebuilt. These improvements will, in the course of a few years, render Cronstadt one of the handsomest towns, of its size, in Russia.

CHAP. XIV.

Departure from Cronstadt, and environs of St. Petersburg. — Cotton manufactory. — Convent of St. Alexander Nevsky. — Cemetery. — Watchmen at villas. — Punishment of the knout. — Coins and money. — Orders of merit. — Police. — Booksellers. — Nobility. — Morals. — Emperor Alexander. — Fires for coachmen. — Public funeral. — Costumes. — Marriages. — Jews. — Clubs. — Public gardens. — Administration of justice. — Hotels. — Spies.

On our return by the steam-boat, which leaves Cronstadt at five o'clock in the evening, we proceeded to view the environs of the capital, driving along the banks of the Neva, on which the number of small and gay vessels presented a very animated scene. About eight versts off to the right, we visited a manufactory, founded by Prince Potemkin, for making porcelain, crystal, and mirrors. Here there is a square, with furnaces erected on each side, and apartments for glass-cutting, in which a number of hands were employed; and in one room there was an exhibition of glass for sale.* Some of the plates for mirrors

* An important discovery has been made in the cutting of glass. If a round glass body is to be cut, a line is marked with a piece of flint (having a sharp angle, an agate, and file,) exactly on the place where it is to be cut; a long thread dipped in sulphur is then passed three times round the line,

were of extraordinary dimensions, although they did not exceed those in the manufactory near Paris, where is one 117 inches in height, which cost 12,139 francs. We afterwards proceeded to an extensive manufactory for the spinning of cotton, which has an institution connected with it that does honour to the government; as one thousand young persons of both sexes, from the foundling hospital, are employed here, who are clothed, maintained, and educated at the public expence. What principally attracted our attention was, the systematic order and regularity that prevail throughout every department, combined with that comfort, cleanliness, and happiness which the inmates exhibit: the latter, in fact, is depicted in the countenance and general appearance of all. They rise at six o'clock to work, breakfast at eight, dine at twelve, and sup at six in the evening. They have meat five times a week, with soup; and porridge, with milk and bread, at supper; and are allowed to eat as much as they choose, excepting as to butcher's meat. At meals they assemble in a great hall, which we happened to enter during the hour of dinner, and witnessed the interesting spectacle. In this apartment (210 feet in

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and is burned. On the glass being heated, drops of cold water are to be put on it, when the pieces will separate with the utmost exactness.

length, and 42 in breadth), are four tables, with divisions of six feet to separate the sexes, the boys sitting at one end of the hall, and the girls at the other. In an adjoining room the dishes are raised by machinery from the kitchens beneath. After taking their seats, they stand up, and sing the Lord's Prayer set to music, which is succeeded by a hymn. I will venture to affirm, that healthier, better clothed, and more orderly children, are not to be seen in any institution. The girls' dress is peculiarly neat; their hair is tucked up and fastened with a comb; and the boys wear jackets and trowsers. They receive the one-half of their earnings, which amounts from two and a half to twenty-five rubles a month. The remainder is put out at interest, until the period of their marriage, when they are at liberty either to quit the institution, or to enter into an engagement for six years in the capacity of domestics. They receive eight rubles monthly, until they arrive at sixteen years of age. After work they are taught to read and write for two hours, and also instructed in mathematics and drawing, &c. if found to have any capacity for such pursuits. We were shown some specimens of their talents in drawing, which certainly indicated no ordinary ability. It is calculated that the sum of twenty rubles monthly per head, or 240,000 rubles per annum, defray the entire expences of this

institution. Military are stationed as guards in different parts of the cotton-mill, which is 350 feet long, and has a neat church adjoining it. This establishment is under the special patronage of the Dowager Empress, and the unremitted exertions and attention Her Majesty uniformly bestows on it, reflect the highest honour on her. The whole is superintended by Mr. Wilson, a Scotchman, who has the title of Colonel, although he is a merchant, and has never been in the army; for such distinctions are common in this country, and titles of nobility, with orders of merit, are often bestowed on mercantile characters and others not connected with the army; but it should be remarked, that, by a recent regulation, nobility conferred on individuals of the class of merchants, for services rendered to the state, is merely for life, and not transmitted to descendants; a law, however, that has no retrospective effect.

On returning to town, we were stopped at the barrier, and notwithstanding the short distance, and the few hours that had elapsed since our departure, our names were again demanded, and questions put to us as to the object of our visit, and other circumstances which had been so recently explained. We then alighted at the convent of St. Alexander Nevsky. This is a most extensive cluster of buildings, containing an elegant church, with a residence for the metro-

politan, gardens, a convent for monks, and a smaller church contiguous. It was originally founded by Peter the Great, and is said to be erected on the very spot where the celebrated warrior, Alexander Yaroslávich obtained a distinguished victory over the Swedes in the year 1240; in consequence of which, when he was canonized, he received the cognomen of Nevsky, that memorable exploit having been accomplished on the banks of the Neva. The edifice itself is fancifully built in the form of an eagle, with extended wings, which reminds us of that pious whim, which induced Philip II. to build the Escurial, dedicated to San Lorenzo, in the shape of a gridiron. But although commenced by Peter, the present church was not completed till 1790, when it was finished after the designs of the architect Starόv.* Over the entrance is a representation of Christ entering into Jerusalem. The ceiling is particularly striking from its beautiful paintings in fresco, which have a brilliant effect. The great aisle has twelve columns on each side, and at the extremity is a lofty dome, illuminated by several windows. Under this stands the altar, concealed by curtains, which are drawn aside only during service.

* Starov, who was a pupil of Kakorinov, the architect of the building for the Academy of the Fine Arts, died in 1816.

We were, however, permitted to view this sanctuary, which is adorned with a very fine painting of the Annunciation, by Raphael Mengs, of whose pencil it is considered one of the best productions. The most remarkable object in this church is the tomb of Saint Alexander Nevsky, to the right of the altar, in the form of a sarcophagus, with a canopy. The approach to it is by three steps, and over it is a painting of our Saviour. Each side of the tomb contains representations of the actions of this Saint. The wall at the back, from top to bottom, is covered with silver, and that on each side decorated with trophies of armour and warlike instruments. The weight of the whole is calculated at 214 poods of silver.* This monument is held in most profound veneration by the Russians, and we observed several persons prostrating themselves before it, offering up prayers, and saluting it with as much devotion as is shown by the pilgrims at the Holy Sepulchre. On the 29th of August a festival is held in commemoration of St. Alexander, at which the imperial family and nobility are present. On this day the whole city is in motion, the shops are shut up, the police-office itself closed, every one is dressed in his best attire, and illuminations take place in the evening; but these are paltry in the extreme,

* One pood is equal to 40 lbs. English.

there being only earthen vessels set on the ground along the sides of the streets. With respect to the church, it is then crowded to suffocation; and those who obtain admittance consider themselves as peculiarly fortunate. In front of the tomb is a glass-case, where is preserved the jaw-bone of a bishop, who may, perhaps, be ranked, from this mark of honour, as another Saint; besides which valuable memento there are many other items to swell the inventory of consecrated trumpery (*tromperie*); from which it may be conjectured, that the manufacturing of "genuine" relics is as profitable a trade here as the manufacturing of "old masters" is among picture-dealers. Near to this altar is a splendid seat of red velvet fitted up for the Emperor, with full-length portraits of the Empress Catherine and Peter. We remarked a number of pictures, such as the Saviour presenting the keys to St. Peter, the Last Supper, the Descent from the Cross, and the Ascension; also one of the present Dowager Empress, with her son Alexander (then a youth), and his consort. On the walls are the Virgin and child, in gold and silver frames.

Attached to the convent is the small chapel of the Annunciation, where is a column of marble, with an inscription, pointing out that three children of the Emperor Alexander are interred below. It is remarkable, however, that these royal infants were not deposited with the other

branches of the imperial house in the church of the fortress. On this spot also is erected a monument to Suwarrow, or Suvarov, with this inscription: — "Generalissimo Prince Italinsky, Count Alexander Vassilivich Suvarov-Rimninsky, born November 13. 1729; died May 6. 1800." And also the monuments of Panin, Prince Besborodko, the Narishkin family, Prince Alexander Viasemsky, Field-Marshal Dolgoruky, Field-Marshal Galitzin, Count Shuvalov, and many other celebrated characters. In the sacristy we were shown the caps of red and black velvet, covered with silver and gold, which are worn by the priests when officiating.

After inspecting this church, we were conducted to another, denominated the Nevsky chapel, which is surrounded with a narrow gallery, supported by thirteen columns. The altar here absolutely dazzles the eyes by its excessive splendour and brilliancy. Among the many paintings that adorn it, is a highly beautiful one of our Saviour removing the doubts of Peter. The pictures of the Virgin Mary we saw here are completely loaded with diamonds, pearls, and precious stones; and it is altogether singular, that she and the child are uniformly represented with tawny countenances,—in many instances as negroes. The superstitious devotion paid to the Virgin, both in this and Roman Catholic countries, where she is, almost blasphemously, styled

the Queen of Heaven, has frequently been reprobated by Protestant writers as a relic of Pagan polytheism; and the juggling artifices resorted to, in order to impress the multitude with a due awe for this female divinity, would, if detailed, form an important chapter in the history of superstition and imposture. Some of these tricks are in such a complete mountebank style, that they would be ludicrous did they not excite unqualified abhorrence and contempt. I have actually seen a puppet of the Virgin in Italy, which was made to shed tears — for the sins of this world!!

The cemetery of this convent is crowded with the most elegant and expensive tokens of affection for the dead, in a variety of shapes, such as monuments of white marble, large crosses, columns, figures of angels, &c. and many of them have inscriptions. It is also scattered with a profusion of flowers, which, in summer, have a very pleasing appearance, and are certainly more proper and decent, considering the sanctity of the spot, than the practice of letting out such places, as is often the case in England, as grazing ground for cattle, or even their allowing them to be common thoroughfares. There is a monument erected here to Lomonosov, the father of the modern literature of Russia; a man of the most varied talents, and a writer of undoubted genius. Another is to the

memory of Michael Nikitich Muravïev (the uncle of the poet Batiushkov), who was one of the most elegant prose writers and moralists of this country, and tutor to the Grand Dukes Alexander and Constantine; and who died 29th July (August 10.), 1807. One of the monuments here was on so large a scale, as to be very conspicuous, and of such admirable sculpture as well to merit attention: it represents a female kneeling in profound grief at an altar before a cross.

At one tomb we beheld a lady wringing her hands, weeping, and apparently overwhelmed with grief. This sacred ground is greatly courted by persons of distinction, who conceive it a high honour to have their own ashes, or those of friends, laid here.

In some parts of the empire, during the period of Christmas, puppets that move on wires are carried about, exhibiting the Birth of Christ, &c.; while the priests, considering this their harvest time, go from house to house, holding up the cross, and informing the inhabitants that a Saviour is born. On Good Friday, after a similar practice I witnessed at Jerusalem, a tragical representation is given of the funeral of our Lord. On Easter, at one o'clock in the morning, every church bell is in motion, and the priests, with their flock, walk round their temples, holding up wax-lights, during which the figure is

taken from the grave, and laid on the front of the altar, while the people exclaim that the Saviour is risen. In the evening it is carried to the grave, with the sign of the cross on it.

The local situation of the cemetery I have alluded to appears to suggest some observations not altogether unimportant. It appears to point out the expediency of all places of interment being at some distance from towns. Public decency requires it; and it is to be regretted that this has been totally overlooked in our own country, where the evil has been complained of with great justice. It will be found that an anxiety prevails not only to bury beneath churches, but in the ground attached to them, which is, for the most part, crowded to excess, and it therefore often becomes a difficult task to find a new grave, or, in fact, even open an old one, without disturbing human ashes. Is it not revolting to reflect, on committing the mortal remains of a fellow-creature to the silent mansion, that they will probably be treated in the same careless manner as those now disturbed by the sexton? and does it not naturally lead us to conclude, that our own ashes, when consigned to the dust, will meet with a similar treatment? In England, church-yards are not only often thrown open, but frequently made common thoroughfares, or used for drying linen and other domestic purposes. Not only do such practices

tend to diminish that proper respect for the mansions of the dead, but when the funeral service is read in a spot surrounded by streets and houses, it necessarily loses much of its solemnity and impressive effect. Among the ancients it was the custom to bury the dead without their cities, and the same practice prevails in most countries at the present day; which, indeed, serves to illustrate one part, among others*, of the inspired volume, where it is said, that "Abraham stood up from before his dead, and said unto the sons of Heth, give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead *out of my sight*†;" a desire repeated by the Patriarch.‡ The cemetery of Père-la-Chaise at Paris, and that at Copenhagen, which are, perhaps, altogether unrivalled in Europe for extent, and the order and beauty in which they are kept, are beyond those capitals, and exhibit the greatest taste and propriety. It is, however, for the sake of the living, not of the dead, that a decent respect is to be shown to the mouldering remains of humanity, since the treatment these receive cannot possibly affect the latter — cannot detract aught from their bliss, or add a single pang to their misery. Without adverting to the absurd superstitions inculcated on this subject, it may suffice to observe, that rather contradic-

* Gen. xxxv. 19. † Gen. xxiii. 3, 4.
‡ Gen. xxiii. 8.

tory opinions are entertained respecting it; for the field of honour, as it is styled, is no more consecrated ground, than is the cross-way where felons are interred. What a singular trait, too, is it in human nature, that persons who take no thought of their souls, are frequently those who are most solicitous concerning the final disposal of their bodies!

On leaving the convent, we passed several villas in the environs, many of which, being enveloped in trees, afford harbour for those who are intent on depredations. Watchmen are, therefore, employed; and in order to prove that these guardians are on the alert, the following mode is employed: — from a large pole, which is attached horizontally to two trees, is suspended a piece of thick iron, probably two feet by four in breadth; this the watchman strikes at different hours of the night with a hammer, and a piece of iron. The noise is something like a gong, and heard at a great distance; yet a rattle, it might be supposed, would answer the purpose equally well, and be used in any part of the grounds. Near one villa we saw an inscription in four languages, authorising every person of respectable appearance and behaviour to amuse himself unmolested as he chooses.

There is an asylum here for lunatics, and many private houses for the reception of that

unfortunate class, but we could not ascertain their precise number.

I will now proceed to make some miscellaneous observations on the capital and its inhabitants, previously to taking my leave of it.

In paving the streets, the mode is first to make a square, a wide extended cross, or the form of a diamond, of large stones, after which it is filled up with small stones, and these are secured by pieces of brick.

A spot, sometimes called the Square of Mars, which occupies a great extent of ground, similar to that at Paris, is set apart for exercising the troops; but the small posts and cords, like those on a race ground, to prevent the intrusion of carriages, have a paltry effect. Near this spot, is an equestrian statue of Suvarov, who is represented in a warlike attitude, holding his sword in the right hand, and resting his left on a pedestal of marble, raised upon three steps, on which is placed a crown and sceptre, as if he was in the act of protecting them.

Having formerly alluded to the punishment of the knout, it may be proper to mention, that the place set apart for its infliction on criminals is that where cattle are sold. The instrument employed is fixed to a wooden handle one foot in length, to which are attached several thongs, extending two feet, and twisted together, which, after being laid in milk and water, are dried in

the sun, in order that they may operate more powerfully.* To the end of these is fastened a single tough thong one foot and a half in length, and capable of being changed by the executioner, when he finds it too weak, or softened or clotted with the blood of the miserable sufferer. There have formerly been instances of this terrible punishment being inflicted on persons of rank. In confirmation of this fact, it may be stated that a lady, distinguished for her beauty, accomplishments, and elegance, and, at one time, almost idolized, having been charged with being implicated in a conspiracy, was, to the eternal

* A philanthropist, on visiting this country, went directly to the house of the executioner, when the following dialogue took place: —

P. Can you inflict the knout so as to occasion death?

E. I can.

P. In how short a time?

E. In a day or two.

P. Have you ever inflicted it?

E. I have.

P. Have you lately?

E. Yes: the last man I flogged died of the punishment.

P. In what manner do you make it mortal?

E. By one or more strokes on the sides, which carry off large pieces of flesh.

P. Do you receive orders to inflict it severely?

E. I do.

It is also related that he saw a man and woman suffer. The latter was first lashed, receiving five strokes, which penetrated the flesh; and the man had sixty; afterwards their nostrils were split, and they were branded by puncturing.

disgrace of the Russian character, brought out as a common felon, and after being rudely treated, was placed upon the scaffold. At the very first lash the skin was peeled from her neck to the very end of her back, and afterwards, as a refinement of barbarity, her tongue was cut, and she was hurried off to Siberia to end there the remainder of her days. Catherine also once exercised her vindictive disposition towards a young female whom she had turned off, whose chamber was invaded during her sleep, and an officer inflicted on her, upon the spot, this dreadful punishment. Persons condemned to the knout, and afterwards to banishment, walk to the spot of punishment. On being cured, they are dressed in grey coats, on the back of which is a particular mark, and are then chained to each other, and sent off guarded by a file of soldiers.

With respect to the coins of Russia, it may, in general, be remarked, that they are as easy to be understood as those in France. Previous to the tenth century, none seem to have been known in the empire; and by some it is supposed that the first coinage was introduced by the Tatars, whose money was stamped with the arms of Moscow; namely, a horseman striking a dragoon with his spear. The name of kopek owes its origin to the word kope, signifying a spear. At present there are kopeks of 80, 40, and 10 pieces, and the latter is of the value of

one penny. No mint was established, but gold and silversmiths struck the coins, and were at liberty to convert them into money of real value. The sixteenth century may be considered the period when what may properly be termed a coinage took place, in a mint opened at Moscow. The first rubles (at present equal to 8*d.* sterling) were struck in 1654. Paper money is current, and passes under the name of *assignations.*" There are notes of 50, 25, 10, and 5 rubles each: the first three are of a white, the fourth is of red, and the latter of a blue colour; and being held up before the light, the number of each is distinctly seen, which is convenient for those who cannot read the Russian characters. These notes are taken without examination or precaution: at least if one is indorsed, it is objected to, and passed again with great difficulty, a circumstance that travellers ought to attend to. The gold coins used are the Imperial (weighing 188¼ English grains), the half Imperial, and the ducat. In calculating money in public offices or shops, the Russians do not employ pen and ink, but use what is called the stchot, supposed to have been derived from the Chinese; which may be described as a board fitted up with twelve wires, or cross bars, on which are small yellow and black balls of bone, nine to each bar. At a distance this machine has the appearance of a musical instrument: the

two lower bars, which are at a greater distance from the others, are intended for the calculation of kopeks, and the remaining ten for rubles; and this mode of counting is performed with great rapidity and facility.*

The Eagle in the imperial coat of arms, was first introduced in 1504. The orders of merit, in founding which the fair sex appear not to be lost sight of, are as follows, viz. of St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. Alexander Nevsky, St. George, St. Vladimir, and St. Anne. The first-mentioned of these was founded by Peter the Great, with the view of stimulating the nobility in a war against the Turks. The second was instituted in 1714, in grateful recollection of the assistance derived by Peter from his consort in the camp of Pruth, and is conferred only upon ladies. The third was created by Catherine I. in 1725; the two following by Catherine II. in 1759 and 1782; and the last by the Duke of Holstein, in 1735, in honour of his Duchess Anne. It is un-

* Subjoined is an account of some of the principal measures: — The Russian foot is the same as that in England. A fathom, or sazhin, is 7 feet 1 inch. A verst, 500 fathoms. 500 sazhins is 1 verst, and 3 versts is equal to two miles English. An arshin is 28 English inches. 3 arshins make 1 sazhin; and a poud is 40 Russian, or 36 British lbs. The desiatin, which is a land measure, is equal to two acres, two roods, 175-7th poles of British standard measure. The weights, and the liquid and other measures of this country, are too numerous to mention here.

necessary to describe the insignia connected with the several honours. Besides the preceding, there are several minor orders, some of which are conferred on civilians.

There are seven newspapers in the Russian and French, and two in the German language, published here; yet no liberty of expression is allowed, the press being completely under the surveillance of a censorship; so that should there happen to be any thing in the debates of the British Parliament, in the slightest degree unfavourable towards this country, not one syllable of it must be introduced into the Russian journals; or should any of them be so indiscreet, woe to both publisher and printer; while, on the other hand, the most trifling paragraph written in their favour, is greedily snatched at, and triumphantly blazed and commented upon in the prints. Of course there is no discussion, no party, no opposition; but that beautiful harmony of sentiment and opinion, which John Bull has not taste enough to relish, but would be apt to term insipid. The English journals are not always particularly flattering to our patriotism, for while one abuses this set of men, another attacks their adversaries, so that, to an impartial observer, it is often difficult to say which is the worse. But here you may conceive yourself in the latitude of Utopia: every thing is admirable, every thing praiseworthy, and

nothing to be found deserving censure. Well may we exclaim, "*O! felices nimium!*" not forgetting to add, "*ter quaterque beatos quos irrupta tenet copula.*" The system is excellent as far as it goes: it is only to be regretted that the government cannot gag the press in other countries, and prohibit it from uttering aught that is disagreeable to its too sensitive ears. There is, perhaps, too, another somewhat disagreeable circumstance attending such a system; namely, that whenever public opinion expresses itself, it is not in blustering words, but in action — in conspiracies and revolutions. The freedom of the press may be abused; nay it often is abused; but are our hands to be continually manacled, in order to prevent the possibility of theft or rapine? Besides there are many very unpalatable truths which yet are not seditious: but here *solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant.* The Russian government, however, must be allowed to put in practice the conduct recommended by our great moralist, who observes, that "it is not more reasonable to have the liberty of writing unrestrained, because writers may be censured, than it would be to sleep with our doors unbolted, because, by our laws, we can hang a thief." But is it, then, a hopeless problem in legislation, to discover some mode of checking the abuse of the right, while it is allowed to be exercised within due bounds. As to the above comparison, it is

not exactly correct with regard to Russia, for she does not merely bolt her door, but absolutely bricks it up; and it may, therefore, be doubted, whether the security thus obtained is not more than counterbalanced by the inconvenience.

The following are a few of the many facts that might be adduced in confirmation of the jealousy, illiberality, and that cowardly pusillanimity of the government. An editor of one of the newspapers having heard, that I had brought a volume of my travels in Palestine to present to the Emperor, urged me, as a matter of favour and interest, to permit him to copy from it a description of the city of Jerusalem. After he had retained the volume some time for this purpose, I inquired the reason why the extract had not appeared; on which he said, "Ah! monsieur, malheureusement il est defendu." On asking for a further explanation, he informed me that the censor of his paper had positively refused to admit it, because it might be considered as connected with the English Bible Society at St. Petersburg! Yet there was not one syllable relative to that subject; it being merely a description of the Holy City. From not meeting in any of the newspapers with accounts of crimes or breaches of the peace in this large metropolis, or, indeed, in any part of the Russian dominions, a stranger might be apt to conclude that the people were highly distinguished for

good order, morality, and tranquillity. The fact, however, is, that the utmost solicitude is exercised to keep all such information from the public: for although a murder should have been committed, attended with circumstances of the most atrocious nature, a profound silence is observed, and every one kept in total ignorance of it, as far as the journals are concerned.

On one occasion, a person happened to lose his watch in the street, when it having been found by another, the circumstance was adverted to in a newspaper, merely as an article of intelligence; but, incredible as it may seem, the police pounced upon the poor editor, for presuming to make such an insertion, and he was actually fined 1000 rubles! It is one grand object of this despotic government to keep the public in the dark, as well as to facts and occurrences, as to the state of political affairs in general. As a proof, too, of this most contemptible and ridiculous pusillanimity on the part of the government, the following anecdote, if it can be credited, is sufficient: — an Italian, who keeps a small print-shop in the Nevsky Prospect, in order to attract attention, stuck up several prints at the window. One of these happened to be a Russian general in all his military trappings, and the second was an English bull-dog. Both were fastened with pins, that they might be replaced by others with more facility. It so happened that the mastiff was placed in the upper, and

the warrior in the lower pane of glass, and that the former, by some accident, having given way, carried the latter with it; by which, of course, the general was laid flat by the animal, and in that state they remained for some time. This circumstance got to the ears of the police, whose high indignation it did not fail to excite, it being considered an unpardonable insult. They entered the shop, remonstrated with the Italian, accusing him of placing an English bull-dog upon a Russian general, to show he was in the act of worrying him; and, after terrifying the poor fellow, threatened to bring him to condign punishment. What follows is another precious specimen of the same system: — a steam-boat, with a party of pleasure from Stockholm, made a trip to Abo, from which they were induced to extend their excursion to St. Petersburg. Accordingly, they cast anchor at Cronstadt, where the baggage and every thing on board having been examined by the proper officer, they were allowed to proceed. On arriving at the capital, they found a complete embargo laid on their luggage; not being allowed to use their wearing apparel, on which official seals were put, while at the same time they were prohibited from sleeping on shore. Here they were detained, not three, but six weeks, and obliged to go through the farce of advertising their names, and their intention to return. Various other acts, on the part of the police, might be pointed out, equally absurd and

ludicrous. The adage, "Fas est ab hoste docere," is one that ought rather to be cherished by a government that has really at heart the welfare of its subjects. National, like individual vanity, blinds us as to our failings and demerits: from whom, therefore, are we, it may be demanded, so likely to hear truths, bitter and unpalatable indeed, yet not the less salutary, as from those whose partiality has a contrary bias? If nations were as wise as unfortunately they are not, they would rather seek to profit by the opinions of their neighbours, instead of deeming themselves models of perfection. As to the policy of a government which is so sensitively alive to the least expression of public opinion, that it endeavours by every means to suppress it, little indeed can be said in its favour; for it not only indicates a perfect consciousness of its weakness and its errors, but the very means adopted to prevent any innovation must ultimately lead to it in its most dreadful form, that of popular convulsion. It is to the obstinacy and jealousy of the Romish church that we are indebted for the Reformation. To attempt to repress opinion, is to attempt to do that which no human power can possibly effect. Nay, in the most despotic governments, the sovereign is often the most abject slave of opinion and prejudice. The Grand Signior himself, who can order the head of his vizier to be cut off with as little ceremony as he can slice an

apple, dares not omit going in state to the mosque every Friday, and trembles even for his own head should the old women and rabble of Constantinople look coldly on him; and his Sublime Highness is doubtless perfectly aware, that the signal for discontent once given, there is very little to afford him protection.

There is a library kept by Pluchard, which is much resorted to by Englishmen; and it is a curious fact, that it is not very many years ago, that is to say, about the end of the reign of Catherine, that book-stalls were first seen in the markets and fairs of the country towns. The number of periodical publications may be calculated at seventy. This may perhaps startle the reader, and dispose him to think that it affords in itself satisfactory proof of the freedom enjoyed in this country by the press; but, as formerly observed, this is by no means the case, for the government has complete control and superintendance over it. Authors as well as booksellers are subject to punishment, and perhaps to a trip to Siberia, if they presume to insert any article which is not altogether palatable. In such journals, therefore, as may be presumed, the discussion of politics is most studiously avoided. It behoves travellers, likewise, to be very cautious in bringing English publications with them, since they are most narrowly examined, and more especially those which treat

of any thing on Russia.* It often happens, that if books, even of the most trifling kind, and for the amusement of children, are received from England, they are sent to the censor, who determines if they shall be restored to the owner or not, as he sees proper; but even then, not without great delay, trouble, and inconvenience to the parties.

The provisions which the lower orders chiefly subsist on, are rye-bread, buck-wheat, cabbages, and mushrooms. There are stalls in the streets, where black bread, and an acidulous beverage, called quass, and gingerbread, boiled eggs, &c. are sold.† With respect to the national *penchant*

* This subject cannot be touched upon without adverting to the circumstance of an Englishman having published an account of Russia, and dedicating it to the Emperor Alexander; but the contents were relished so little, that they actually became the subject of an ukase, in which His Majesty, instead of laughing at its falsehoods, or profiting by its truths, very sagely resolved that no foreign writer should dedicate a book to him without permission; as if this could prevent his name from being affixed to any foreign publication. Yet what was the effect of this extraordinary prohibition?—The publication was eagerly sought after, and, of course, obtained a rapid circulation; in short, it was just the very means of making the work known, and forwarding the views of the author.

† As to provisions, their prices are regulated according to the season. Beef is from 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb. Lamb and mutton are sold by the quarter. Quarter of lamb, 1*s.* Shoulder of mutton, 6*d.* Quarter of it, 2*s.* 1*d.* Shoulder of veal, 6*d.* Quarter of it, 2*s.* 11*d.* Fowls, 2*s.* a couple. Partridges, 6*d.* a pair. A large turkey, 3*s.* 4*d.* Salt butter, 8*d.* to 10*d.* per lb.; fresh, 3*s.* 4*d.* per lb. Oysters, 4*d.* and even sometimes (in winter) 2*s.* 6*d.* each; and eggs three for 1*d.* and often 4*d.*

for oil, which the lower orders are said to esteem even a delicacy, it is about as true as that Frenchmen live on frogs, and English labourers on roast beef and plum-pudding. After all, such things are mere matters of taste; and, if it has happened that a Russian boor has sometimes swallowed the contents of a lamp, his appetite is not much coarser than that of a fair Spanish donna, whose breath betrays her attachment to savoury compounds of garlic and onions. But wherefore should people ridicule and abuse each other for such little trifles?

All dealers, whether within or out of doors, and I can speak from personal observation, endeavour to impose, as far as their ingenuity can extend, on their customers, particularly on those who are strangers, asking double the value of their articles; a hint, it is trusted, travellers

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a piece! Bread is much the same price as in England. A bottle of cream is 8*d*. In the preparation of all vegetables, sugar is uniformly mixed up. Immediately previous to dinner a glass of spirits or liquor is taken, by way of whetter or provocative, and a mouthful of dry salt-fish or ham. The wages of a coachman, with clothes and maintenance, 1*l*. per month; footman for do., with clothes and maintenance, 12*s*. 6*d*. A female cook, 1*l*. 3*s*. monthly; and housemaid, from 9*s*. to 18*s*. a month. If board-wages are given, the sum allowed is 4*d*. a day. Each servant is subjected in an annual tax to government of five rubles for "a permission of residence," or liberty to take up his abode in the city. In the case of foreigners, men pay 10, and females 5 rubles.

will attend to. We therefore always dealt, if possible, with either our own countrymen, or Germans, the latter of whom are numerous here. If, however, there be some lack of honesty and fair dealing on the part of the tradespeople, there is no want of politeness on that of their customers, as the latter make a point of pulling off their hats when they enter a shop; a practice that might surely have obtained for the Russians the credit of being a polite nation, and highly attentive to *bienséance*. Even in the post-houses and public offices the same mark of respect is looked for; or, if omitted, you are probably reminded of the breach of decorum by one of the sentinels or attendants. Whether they would exact the same show of good-breeding from a Quaker, I cannot say.

Among the regulations laid down in the prison for criminals, it may not be improper to mention the following:—They are obliged, from March 1. to November 1. to rise at five; and from the latter to the former period, at six o'clock in the morning. Half an hour is allowed for washing themselves, half an hour for prayer; when one of them is appointed to read a chapter of the New Testament, and another a psalm, aloud. Their breakfast consists of rye bread and salt; and after it, they are allowed to walk for half an hour. The hours of working are from seven to twelve o'clock in the morning, and two to seven

o'clock in the afternoon. During working, silence is commanded; and those who disobey, are fed on bread and water. At finishing their employments for the day, all their tools are taken from them. From seven to half past seven o'clock in the evening, they are again permitted to walk in the yard; at the expiration of this time, one reads a chapter in the New Testament. At eight o'clock they sup, after which half an hour is allowed for their devotions. On sabbaths and holidays the criminals attend the prison chapel; the remainder of these days are employed in receiving religious advice from the clergyman. Spirituous liquors, articles of luxury and extravagance, gaming, singing, smoking tobacco, &c. are expressly forbidden. Surely such a system of discipline must be admitted to be quite as moral as that of our prisons.

Ladders employed in building, appear to be dangerous, although of simple construction, being a large pole or log of wood, with sticks across for steps, about two feet in length, similar to the spars or small sticks for poultry to mount in going to roost. On the top of these a board projects in front, like a small scaffold, resting on pieces of wood at each end attached to the pole, with an aperture in the centre to enable the person who mounts it to get through at the summit. These are ascended with facility by the Russians, with enormous loads on their heads; nor

do they appear to be under the slightest degree of apprehension for their personal safety.

Towers are erected in different parts of the city, where guards are stationed night and day, to give alarm in case of fire. A flag-staff is on the top, and balls are hoisted whensoever such an accident occurs.

Perhaps in no other country does there exist a more marked difference in the distinction of ranks. Princes absolutely swarm here, and, as may therefore be supposed, many of them are in exceedingly poor circumstances; for some persons in our own country would, according to a vulgar but significant expression, "buy and sell" hundreds of them. If a person be a prince, however numerous his family may be, all his sons enjoy the same title; and however low may be their purse, they hold it to be exceedingly derogatory to their dignity to associate with, or even to be seen to sit in company with a roturier. Yet, notwithstanding all their pride of birth, and their hauteur, some are actually engaged in trade; and a bankruptcy has lately been announced of a prince, for seven millions of rubles. British merchants in St. Petersburg, however respectable they may be, both for wealth and integrity, are, in the eyes of these would-be great personages, absolutely of no account, or rather people whose society ought to be shunned, rank being a *sine qua non*

with them. I recollect having heard an English lady of rank here express her regret that she could not presume to invite an English merchant to sit down at her table with one of these princes. I once took the opportunity, at a dinner party, to mention to one of these nobles, that some of our blood royal associate with commoners, and even preside at public festivals, where there might be some hundreds of merchants and citizens; on which he appeared altogether overwhelmed with astonishment, considering it an act of degradation on the part of persons of such rank. In short, a prince, or not a prince, "that is the question" with all of them.

Another circumstance that detracts considerably from the pleasure of society, is, the restraint necessarily imposed upon all by the apprehension that any remarks dropped, in the course of conversation, may reach the ears of the police, which are exceedingly long and capacious. Even in the circle of such of our countrymen as are domesticated here, we observed the same caution, the same measured language: no one cares even to hint his opinion as to any thing connected in the slightest degree with politics. What a misfortune it is that men were not created mere automata, pieces of mechanism, pliant puppets, that an imperial showmaster might direct just as he pleased! Still, even in Russia, people will not always submit to

be tongue-tied; and unless the country retrogrades in civilization as rapidly as it has advanced, government must relax its despotic severity.

With respect to the state of morals, we cannot compliment the Russians very highly in this respect, at the same time we must not estimate them by the standard set up by some writers. A nation is not to be judged by anecdotes, even though they be all undeniably and individually true; for what should we think of the traveller who should gravely assert, that, in England, it is the custom for some of the lower orders to sell their wives whenever they are tired of them; that our physicians placard their names in the streets; that it is the custom for very "respectable" people, of both sexes, to advertise in the papers for a matrimonial partner*; or that church preferments are offered to the highest bidder, through the same channels. A foreigner, too, might be pardoned for doubting, whether we are really entitled to all the morality for which we take credit to ourselves, when he reads our numerous reports of trials for crim. con. and breach of promise of marriage; of the expertness of our pickpockets, and their activity at all public places; of our magnificent swindling schemes, and joint-stock companies; or, when he beholds the number of our gin-shops, flash-houses, and those gorgeous temples, dedicated

* The Morning Herald is the favourite organ of these, as it should seem, very unfortunate votaries of Hymen.

to the mammon of gambling. What must an unprejudiced person think of us, when he peruses the mass of scandal weekly vomited forth in the Sunday papers, to relieve the excessive dulness of an English sabbath? It is true, we have not so rigorous and oppressive a police as that in Russia; but we have game laws; and if, too, we have neither serfs nor slaves, we have a tremendous number of paupers, equally degraded, and still more unfortunate. Let not our patriotism get altogether the better of candour and charity; but confess that, if there be many things very bad in Russia, there are many also in England not much better—*fiat justitia ruat cælum.* If these remarks prove unpalatable to my countrymen, let them prove the incorrectness of my sketch by expunging those features from which it is taken.

Never, perhaps, was there a monarch more averse to state and ostentation than the Emperor Alexander, or one who so much courted privacy and plainness. As I intended to present to His Majesty my volume of Travels in Palestine, Sir Charles Bagot applied to the minister for an audience; and Count Nesselrode accordingly, by command of the Emperor, appointed a day for that purpose, but when it arrived His Majesty was confined to his apartment by indisposition.*

* The following are the members of the imperial family:—

Another time was therefore fixed, but it so happened that he was busily occupied in urgent state matters. These delays, which occupied three weeks, proved a serious inconvenience, as my time was limited, and there is no trifling with weather in this latitude. The truth is, we had left England late in the season, and were, moreover, anxious to visit Moscow; after which we had still a long journey before us. I would therefore recommend to travellers who may be inclined to

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The dowager Empress, a Princess of Wirtemberg, who had five princes and three princesses.

1. Alexander Pavlovich, Emperor of Russia and King of Poland, born 13th December, 1777; married 2d October, 1793, to Elizaveta Alexievna Maria, sister of the Grand Duke of Baden. He ascended the throne at twenty-four years of age, 12th March, 1801, and was crowned at Moscow 15th September that year.

2. Constantine Pavlovich, born 8th May, 1779; married to Anna Pheodorovna, born 23d September, 1781, sister of the Prince of Coburg, divorced, and then united to Jane Princess Lowiez.

3. Nicolai Pavlovich, born 6th July, 1798; married 13th July, 1817, Charlotte, daughter of the King of Prussia, 18th August, 1819; succeeded his brother Alexander, 1st December, 1825.

4. Michael Pavlovich, born 8th February, 1798.

5. Alexander Pavlovich, born 13th December, 1784.

6. Maria, born 4th Feb. 1786.

7. Ekatarina, born 10th May, 1788.

8. Anna, born 7th January, 1795, said to have declined an offer of the hand of one of the princes of England, married to the Prince of Orange, son of the King of the Netherlands.

make the same route and enjoy the fine season, to leave England about the month of March. I found, however, that I could not quit the capital without first intimating my intention to His Majesty, and extricating myself from the obligation to appear before him.

I have already mentioned a particular erection in front of the palace for the accommodation of the izvoshtshiki, or drivers of carriages. Many others are to be seen in various parts of the city, particularly at the theatres and all public places where a number of equipages are collected, and where the drivers are obliged to wait for some hours to take up the company. In winter, these places have a most comfortable appearance from the blazing fires to be seen there; independently, too, of their comfort and utility, they are so neat as to be in some degree ornamental also.

In different quarters of the city are stations where day-labourers assemble for hire; particularly in the square of the Kazan church, where they may be seen in groups, some standing, others lolling and sprawling on the ground, and many asleep. In other parts of the town, females assemble in a similar manner for the purpose of offering their services for hire. There are a great many dogs constantly prowling about the streets: it is therefore deemed expedient, as soon as the hot weather commences, to destroy such as have no collars to indicate that they belong to

any owners. The slaughter of these animals takes place in the dead of night, when the police proceed in parties, and take their station at the end of a street, while others chase the dogs before them to that spot, where they are killed with bludgeons by those waiting for them. This practice, which is of rather recent date, is said to have originated from the circumstance of the late Emperor having been one night attacked by one of these animals while driving incog. in his droshka. The next morning no dogs were to be seen in the streets.

A funeral passing under our window, afforded us an opportunity of comparing the ceremony with those usual in England on similar occasions. This was one of more than ordinary pomp, being that of a general officer who had long served the Emperor in a confidential situation. The order of procession was as follows:—after a dragoon on horseback, in a blue uniform, to clear the way, came several officers; two of whom, in the centre, carried red velvet cushions, on which were laid the arms of the deceased; next succeeded the body in a gilded coffin, in the form of a sarcophagus, on which was his hat. There was no pall; so that the coffin was quite exposed to view, and it was placed on a carriage drawn by six horses, something like a hearse, but without any top. On each side of the horses walked attendants, muffled up in black cloaks, and wear-

ing broad hats that hung down on each side; and although it was mid-day, they all carried lighted torches. Behind the body walked several of the personal friends of the deceased, in the centre of whom was the chief-mourner, with ribands of different colours attached to his left shoulder. Several soldiers and officers brought up the rear; but they were without fire-arms; and the shoulder-knots of the latter were covered with crape. After these came drummers, whose drums were covered with black cloth, and the drum-major marched in front, with his large staff of authority wrapped round with crape. A band of music next appeared, and another troop of soldiers, with the regimental colours, and their muskets laid horizontally on their arms. This part of the procession was closed by 125 companies of soldiers, four drummers with their drums muffled, and five field-pieces covered with black cloth, two abreast, and drawn by four black horses, with artillery-men on each side. The carriage of the deceased followed, filled with the ladies of his family; and then those containing His Excellency Sir Charles Bagot, the consul-general, and several persons of rank; there were also about twenty droshkas, for the accommodation of those who walked, on their return from the place of interment. A prodigious crowd attended the *cortège*. In a pompous eulogium on this officer, it was men-

tioned that one of his ancestors had founded in the East Indies a monastery, under the name of the *Bethlemites*, in 1667.*

There does not appear to be any thing very different in the females of the lower order, from the same class in our own country. They wear a jupe dress of some gaudy colour, and the sleeves of the shift are displayed. Some of the better sort, when abroad, wear a silk handkerchief thrown over their cap. The women are all very plain, having mostly flat features, and their complexions are generally very sallow — unless we choose rather to term them brunette, as the less invidious term of the two; but many of them are so daubed with paint, that it is difficult to say what is the natural hue of their skin. The men, however, are athletic and hardy, and when wrapped in their *shubes* might, both from their dress and physiognomy, be taken for Arabs. It must be confessed, however, that both sexes have remarkably fine teeth; which is attributed to the effect of the black bread they eat. There are, too, very few cripples or deformed persons

* I cannot dismiss this subject without adverting to an extraordinary ordinance (1827) which has been issued by the King of Sardinia since these pages were written, conveying the strongest proof of Catholic intolerance; namely, prohibiting Protestants in his dominions from being interred with any public ceremony, and their funerals from being attended by more than twelve persons professing the Protestant religion.

to be seen; which is certainly not the case in Rome.* Their dress is fastened at the waist by a sash, in which they usually carry the implements of their trade; and their necks are much exposed, their hair cropped close under the neck, and above it is cut evenly and nicely round, like a wig. A bushy beard is considered by Russians as much as by the Turks an ornament to the male visage; and it certainly gives the countenance a fierce air. Their gloves, which sometimes reach as high as the elbows, have only a thumb, the fingers being confined as in a stocking, and the feet are cased in exceedingly clumsy boots. Shoes are worn by some, made of wood and the bark of trees woven or matted together; but stockings are seldom used, for instead of these they have some linen or rags wrapped round their legs, which give them a most beggarly appearance.

Of the Russian language, I pretend not to judge myself, except that it sounded harshly to

* It may be mentioned here, that in 1823 the deaths were 10,047; births, 8264; excess of mortality, 1763; and it is remarkable this was confined to the male sex. Persons frequently attain a great age: among the deaths were seventy-six of persons who had attained 100 years, and several at 105, 110, and two at 120. The number of children who die annually are calculated to amount to about one-fourth of the whole mortality of the empire. One cause assigned is the different emersions in cold water they undergo at the period of baptism. Among the higher ranks, the water used at this ceremony is in a tepid state.

my ears; yet I am assured by a friend, who has devoted much time to the study of it, that he considers it by far the finest of the modern European idioms, extremely copious, energetic, rich, sonorous, and harmonious; in one word, "superb." And though it may sound barbarous and harsh enough in the mouths of the common people, it doubtless assumes a very different character when employed by poets. No one would do justice to our own language who should estimate its powers, not from Milton and Shakspeare, but from hearing it spoken by cockneys. French is usually the language of conversation among all who pretend to be *du bon ton;* but the Russians themselves are not now ashamed of reading their own authors, as was the case formerly; while their literature is beginning to attract the attention of other countries, although it has hitherto been as completely *terra incognita* as the recesses of Siberia itself.

There are no beggars in the public streets, yet they are often to be seen in court-yards, where they sing church music, as a hint to the benevolent. Women of the town are prohibited from walking about, nor is it safe even to address one in the streets, as the police would not fail to reprimand the anti-Platonic enamorato.

Few people submit to abuse, contempt, and personal chastisement, so submissively as the Russians; and, taken in general, they are far

from possessing what we should call refinement either in manners or feelings.

In this country marriage is generally negotiated through the intervention of friends, or else the parents decide upon the husband; and it may, therefore, be said to be entered into without the consent of the female, who is not allowed to express any will of her own, which, it must be admitted, says little in favour of the morality of a nation. Among the ceremonies used on this occasion, it is said that a whip is presented to the bride by her proposed lord and master, which is certainly neither the most elegant or agreeable emblem of the wedded state, especially should the lady be disposed to think fit to retain it in her own hands, as doubtless sometimes will happen. Another ill-omened ceremony attending the nuptials, is that of crowning the bride with a garland of wormwood, as figurative of the bitterness incident to the matrimonial state. After the knot is tied, the priest sprinkles her with hops, that plant being considered emblematical of fertility — a symbol that would be earnestly deprecated by all true Malthusians. The new-made bride is then conducted home by a number of dowagers and duennas, preceded by the priest carrying the cross, and an attendant who offers up prayers. At table the new-married pair are presented with bread and salt; after which an old woman conducts them to their chamber, reminding the bride of one most important lesson; namely, that although she holds

the whip, yet she must "obey" her husband. It may be further mentioned, that no people carry the custom of making marriage-presents to a greater extent, than the upper orders. A bride has been known to be so loaded with gifts, that a large room has been actually filled with them, and made a kind of public exhibition. It may be added, that in this country, entering into a second or third marriage is disapproved of, and a fourth expressly prohibited.

Although fastidious delicacy can hardly be laid to the charge of the Russians, yet they certainly have some exceedingly prudish notions; for it is considered absolutely indecorous in any woman above the lower orders to walk alone in the streets, or without an attendant, and also for an unmarried lady and gentleman to be seen together in public. An English gentleman, with whom I am personally acquainted, unconscious that there was the least impropriety in doing so, used frequently to walk abroad with a lady of the same country, to whom he was then paying his addresses; at length the latter found that her female acquaintance looked very shy upon her, and would even pass without noticing her; a behaviour for which she was wholly at a loss to account, until the reason was explained to her by a friend.

In the Russian dominions the Jews are calculated to amount to two millions, and are split into various sects; and although it may be

remarked they are a people scattered over the world, yet the strongest opinions are entertained as to their final restoration, that they will "be gathered, brought to their own land, be as one nation, have one king, and shall not be divided any more."* By a late ukase, it is ordered that all of them who have settled here, shall henceforth be subject to military service.

Sunday is little regarded, at least as far as we could judge from the bustle and appearance of business going on in the streets, where carts might be seen conveying goods, butchers carrying meat, hawkers vending vegetables, &c. and the theatres and places of amusement are open.

Among the club-houses, of which there are a great variety in this capital, is one that passes under the name of the English Club, although, in fact, there are very few English residents who belong to it. The apartments are very splendidly fitted up, and amusements provided to suit different tastes; for those who seek literary or other intelligence, will here meet with various news-

* With regard to this peculiar people it may be mentioned, that when they are in the act of prayer they turn their eyes towards Jerusalem; and such is their veneration for the soil of Judea, that many of them in different countries procure from Jerusalem portions of earth, which are sprinkled over the eyes of the deceased before interment. Many who can afford the expense retire there to die, that their bodies may mingle with the ashes of their ancestors. It is remarkable, too, that at Copenhagen Jews are buried upright, or standing in their coffins.

papers and journals, while those who give the preference to the less intellectual pastime of cards, will find tables where they may pursue that amusement as long as they please. According to the regulations of this society, no stranger can be admitted without an order from a member, when his name is entered in a book; but even then he cannot repeat his visit without a fresh order each time. Some of these clubs are expressly for dancing, others for concerts of music. There is also one upon a less splendid, yet very elegant footing, for bourgeois, where persons may dine or sup in a handsome style, at a very reasonable rate.

As the soil on which St. Petersburg is built is exceedingly swampy, many of the gardens in the environs have been supplied with luxuriant earth and mould from a distance. Besides the walks along the banks of the Neva, and others in the vicinity, there is a fashionable promenade called the Summer Garden; a name it has obtained from having originally belonged to the Summer Palace. This spot is nearly surrounded by branches of the Neva, and inclosed by lofty and magnificent iron palisades. It is open to the public; but has rather a sombre than inviting appearance, notwithstanding that it is decorated with numerous statues and busts, and the walks are extensive. Never can I forget one serene evening, when walking in this spot along

the shores of the river, we gazed on its limpid stream, gliding smoothly along, and studded with innumerable vessels at anchor, while the deep shade thrown over it by the palaces formed a bold contrast to the brilliant horizon around, and the distant spires and various lofty buildings made a most delightful picture. But the view of the Neva in front, and of the buildings on the opposite bank, among which the Exchange and its two Phari are most conspicuous, contribute, more than any thing else, to the magnificence of the prospect. Nothing, in fact, can exceed the loveliness of the summer evenings here, which eclipse in beauty all that imagination has pictured of the luxurious softness of the south. At this season of the year, Russia seems the region of poetry; for after sun-set the sky displays every tint of the most beautiful purple; and the nights are so tranquil and delicious, as to be absolutely enchanting.

In the botanical garden here, there are calculated to be more than 11,000 species, and 80,000 single plants.

To change the scene a little,—to turn from the contemplation of nature in her fairest aspect to a less poetic subject, I will here say a few words relative to the administration of justice, which is certainly not according to the principles of Astræa; those whose duty it is to expound the law, and decide between litigating parties, being

neither immaculate nor incorruptible. Unfortunately, the judges are poorly paid; a circumstance which always proves injurious to the great ends of public justice, and naturally inclines them to lean to those who have the heaviest purse. Decisions are known to be pronounced in favour of those by whom douceurs have been indirectly conveyed. Many facts might be mentioned in confirmation of this; but I shall confine myself to the following:— One individual, clothed "in the ermine of justice," had most unblushingly intimated to a client, who entertained the fullest confidence in his success, since his claim was most substantially founded, that he was to decide according to the gratuity which should be offered to him. This was refused, the fullest reliance being placed on the positive justice of the case; yet the cause was actually determined against him. Another is that of a judge having been accosted by a person, in the presence of his secretaries, holding a reward in his hand. The former affected to be highly indignant, exclaiming: What! do you come to bribe me? and ordered the present to be thrown on a sofa, as if he despised it. This was done accordingly, when, after the exit of the party, this "upright" judge took it up, and "pocketed the affront." However inadequate their salaries may be, no excuse can be offered

for such a flagrant dereliction of duty.* Still it is incumbent on the government to place judges above temptation, and assign them such emoluments as may leave no excuse for not administering justice with perfect impartiality.

At the hotel where we took up an abode during our stay, and which was in a cheerful and central situation at the corner of the Nevsky Prospect, looking into the Admiralty Square, large stoves were erected in each room. One extraordinary charge made, was for cleaning the rooms, which was twenty copecs, a pretty handsome revenue in so large an establishment.

With respect to private lodgings, the custom is for the party taking them to pay a quarter's rent in advance, and to subscribe a formal contract, engaging to keep the rooms in thorough repair. The houses are generally upon so vast a scale, that a single one frequently contains a score or more families; and one of the articles in the contract entered into with the landlord, is, that in case of fire, the individual, in whose apartments it breaks out, must indemnify the

* In Copenhagen, the judges have each 150*l.* and the justiciarius, or chief justice, 300*l.* annually. Twelve form a court, of which the justiciarius has the casting vote. Notwithstanding these moderate salaries, such is their incorruptible integrity, that not an instance has occurred of bribery or corruption among them in the exercise of their judicial acts.

whole of the damage sustained, should the building be destroyed, which is certainly one way of teaching people caution. It would be well if in England persons were taught that they are not at liberty to make other people suffer by their *carelessness*, and that a lodger or servant may not burn down your house with impunity.

A carriage and pair of horses (and this is a most humble style of equipage here, for four horses are the usual number,) is charged by the day at 12*s.* 6*d.*; or fifteen rubles, if engaged by the month, when it may stand, with the horses and driver, at your door a whole day, if you choose, without your using it. This is frequently done from affected importance.

There is a table-d'hôte at four, and another at five o'clock. At the latter, which is private, the master and mistress preside; and the charge per head is five rubles, exclusively of wine. Those who prefer it, however, may dine in their own apartments; an arrangement which we adopted.* If we may judge by the frequent intimations personally made by our landlady, many of the servants of hotels must take a peculiar fancy to articles belonging to the guests, &c.; in plain language, they are notorious thieves. We were particularly requested by her

* A breakfast of tea and coffee is charged at 1*s.* 5½*d.* each.

to return the silver spoons sent up at breakfast and dinner; or if a single one chanced to be inadvertently left in the room, only five minutes after the servant had cleared the table, a message was despatched to us. The mistress of this hotel not only complained grievously of the great losses she had sustained from domestics purloining these and other articles, but assured us that they had actually stolen many of the keys of her apartments, for the purpose of selling them. The singularly unfortunate *penchant* for the property of others, arising, it may charitably be presumed, from very confused notions of the *meum* and *tuum*, is by no means confined to servants; for I have been assured, on very good authority, that even visitors will not scruple to purloin any little article of *bijouterie*, &c. that happens to lie too temptingly in their way. In this respect they are as little to be trusted as collectors of coins, who, in order to possess themselves of an *unique*, will have recourse to expedients that show a greater passion for *vertu* than love of honesty. There have been instances known of such a trifle as a silver spoon quitting the table, — *presto*, and snugly lodging itself in the pocket of one of the guests; and it is reported that at an entertainment given by one distinguished English nobleman, on a recent visit to this country, a very great *fancy* was taken by some of the company to several articles of plate that com-

posed the dinner service. Let us hope, however, that it was the attendants, not the guests, who were guilty of such infamous behaviour.

We hired a domestique de place at five rubles a day. These fellows being uniformly in the pay of the police, are mere spies on strangers; and I am persuaded, that the police were informed not only of every place we visited, but all the remarks we uttered; a hint that, it is trusted, will not be thrown away upon future travellers. We learned, too, that the police were daily at our hotel, making special inquiries concerning what we were about; and as I was frequently engaged in writing, this circumstance occasioned the most violent suspicions. One morning the mistress of the hotel entered my apartment in great agitation, exclaiming, "*Oh, prenez garde, prenez garde, Monsieur, je vous prie.*" On asking for an explanation, she acquainted me with the danger of writing so much; adding, that she was under the greatest apprehension that the officers would pay me a domiciliary visit, and seize on all my papers, as they had lately done to an English gentleman there, a short time previous. I must confess that, hearing this, I was not altogether easy, especially on recollecting the arbitrary and unjust behaviour exercised towards my two countrymen, as has been already pointed out, and was apprehensive that I might share a similar fate, — be hurried out of the country,—

even if not ordered to travel in the direction of Siberia. On the landlady and her husband again strongly cautioning me, I considered it to be no more than prudent to attend to the warning in time; and therefore represented the matter to our ambassador, requesting to be informed how I should act under these circumstances. From him I learned that Count Nesselrode, the Russian minister, had been making enquiries relative to me; but was assured that, in consequence of his representations, I might rest perfectly easy. Still, although my fears were removed, I had reason to apprehend that my steps were constantly watched, until the very moment of our departure from the capital. Such is the system of espionage kept up in this country, that if a servant be despatched with a letter, especially if in a hurry, it is a thousand to one but he takes it to the governor, who opens it, *sans cérémonie*, looks into the contents, and thus becomes acquainted with your private sentiments or affairs. The government appear to have persons scattered in all quarters, whose office it is to report whatever occurs; so that nothing, however trifling, escapes its cognizance: besides which, it is to be apprehended that these public scrutinizers do not always adhere to mere facts, but indulge in surmises prejudicial to innocent individuals; and woe be to him whom they mark out as the object of their vengeance. At the

same time that such a system destroys all private confidence, and opens a wide door to perfidy and treachery, it is really disgraceful in any government to have recourse to such low and paltry artifices, which are quite as much calculated to entrap the innocent and unwary, as to check those who are evilly disposed. Let such cowardly and tyrannical measures, worthy of the genius of a Torquemada and of the *holy* Inquisition * — worthy only of a land of slaves and despots — be abolished, and Russia show that she can confide in the willing love and patriotism of her children.

We now prepared to quit the northern and proceed to the southern capital of the empire, but were again reminded that our motions did not depend upon our own inclinations or convenience, and that we should first be obliged to ask permission to do so. It is in vain that you order horses to the door, unless you have first provided a passport; and in the view to obtain this important *sine qua non*, without which lo-

* In many modern languages, the word "holy" seems to be employed, like the Latin *sacer*, as synonymous with *scelestus*; for we find this epithet bestowed on what is most detestable and atrocious. Well have the Spaniards reason to say, according to their proverb, that "the devil stands behind the cross." Such titles, too, as "Most Christian," "Most Catholic," and others of a similar description, seem to have been invented by the father of lies himself; being the very essence of hypocrisy — if such a term may be applied to what is so gross and palpable.

co-motion is utterly impossible, great delay, with infinite trouble and vexation, must frequently be submitted to; so that it is absolutely necessary to mature your plans some time beforehand. So soon as you attempt to stir, you feel the clog; and as soon as you make the slightest motion, the clanking of your chains reminds you that you are a prisoner. I have reason to speak feelingly on this subject, as the forms obliged to be submitted to were most galling; for we were actually obliged to procure a certificate from our ambassador, and underwent as strict an examination as if we had been suspected of something treasonable or criminal. To give a specimen of the very amusing questions put on this occasion, I may note the following: —"Where were you born?" "How old are you?"—a question which, addressed to a lady, is frequently particularly annoying, and likewise apt to lead, if not to actual mendacity, to a slight mistake in the reply. "Are you married?" "What was your object in coming to this country?" "How do you like it?" "What are your motives for wishing to go to Moscow?" A number of equally impertinent and trivial queries were put to us with the most provoking tediousness and minuteness; all of which, and the replies made to them, were formally entered in a book. Nor did our troubles terminate even then; for we had afterwards to apply to the

governor for his sanction, which was not obtained without repeated application, and many false assertions on the part of his servants, to questions put to them. And what, after all, is gained by this system of annoyance? for had our intentions been at all dangerous, we should certainly have contrived to decamp without undergoing these formalities.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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